

Beginner's Guide to Undergraduate Study in the USA:

**APPLYING TO
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES
FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDY**

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ABOUT AMERICAN DEGREES

American undergraduate degrees are based on a **Liberal Arts** philosophy that requires students to take a wide variety of courses in the arts and sciences before concentrating in one academic area, creating a "well rounded education."

The Associate degree: normally lasts two years and is designed to meet the requirements of the first two years of a bachelor degree. Please read the Chapter on Two-Year Colleges for further information on this type of degree.

The Bachelor degree: consists of

- 1) general education courses in a wide range of subjects;
- 2) a major, which is a concentrated field of study; and
- 3) electives which are a student's free choice.

Although Bachelor degrees are designed to be completed in four years, there is no fixed completion time scale. Instead, a degree is awarded after a student has completed a required amount of coursework expressed in terms known as credits/units or semester hours. Usually a student will need to accumulate approximately 130 - 180 credits in order to graduate, with each course on average earning 3-4 credits. Continuous assessment is a prominent feature and each course (class) is graded and the grade is then converted into a numeric equivalent on a scale of 0-4.0. These scores are averaged to create a student's **Grade Point Average (GPA)**, which is used as an indicator of performance. Colleges and universities both award undergraduate degrees, and colleges are in no way inferior to universities. We will use the terms "colleges" and "universities" interchangeably in this guide.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS YOU WILL NEED:

South African-educated students are expected to hold at least a senior certificate with exemption with at least a grade D or higher to apply to a 4 year college or university. Two-year colleges may only require a senior certificate.

WHEN TO APPLY:

Ideally you should begin the process 12-18 months in advance. (See the [Time Schedule for Applying to American Universities](#).) Application forms for the Fall term (beginning August or September) are available in August of the previous year. Each university has its own deadline, which may be as early as November. Allow six months for processing the application. Some universities will accept students for January admission. **Remember, the later you apply, the narrower your choice will be.**

HOW TO APPLY

STEP 1 - CHOOSE YOUR COLLEGES

American students consider the whole institution rather than a single department due to the broad approach of the undergraduate degree. Read Choosing a US University for a list of criteria that will help you narrow your choice. Please note that **MEDICINE** and **LAW** are not subjects studied at the undergraduate level in the United States. The field of Medicine is basically closed to foreign students.

Our reference library has course directories that list universities by subject and provide full contact details. We have computer software packages that can quickly provide a university list that is tailored to your needs, and lets you browse through prospectuses and gain access to university Web sites.

To ensure acceptance at at least one of your choices, you should apply to at least one school from each level of difficulty. For example, if you intend applying to Harvard, which is the most difficult school to be accepted into, you should also apply to other schools with varying levels of acceptance difficulty.

STEP 2 - OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS

Write, phone, or preferably email the Director of Undergraduate Admissions at each of the colleges you are interested in for an application form and a catalog (prospectus). Your request should include the following information: name, age, address, nationality, educational qualifications (or predicted qualifications), proposed major (if undecided that is OK), ideal start date, and finally, how you plan to finance your education.

Some American universities now have application forms on-line, which can save you expensive international postal costs and lengthy waiting periods. Remember this option may require a valid credit card to pay any university application fees.

STEP 3 - REGISTER TO TAKE THE SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)

This is a 3-hour primarily multiple-choice, aptitude test. Most institutions will require the in addition to your school qualifications. Some institutions may also require 3 SAT II Tests which measure the candidate's knowledge in a specific subject.

Registration bulletins and free sample questions for the SAT I or II can be obtained from EAS (the Educational Advisory Service) in person. We also sell test preparation books. You can use our computers to register for the SAT on-line and also to take mock SAT exams.

If English is NOT your native language you will need to register for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). The test is given many times every month, and all TOEFL tests in the South Africa are computer based, as paper based tests have been phased out. Registration forms can be obtained from EAS in person.

STEP 4 - RETURN THE APPLICATION FORMS

The US does not have a centralized application system so you must return your completed application forms directly to each individual college. There is no limit to the number of colleges you can apply to; however, most students apply to between 3 and 8 colleges to keep costs down. Read everything thoroughly. Incomplete information will only cause delays. Deadlines are usually

firm. Some of the documents often required as part of your application are:

- School transcripts—Certified True copies of your reports from Grade 9 through 12 (Standards 7 through 10); otherwise a document created by schools detailing subjects taken and grades received (check with university);
- Funding certification—form usually provided by university, must be signed by bank or accompanied by bank statements as the university directs;
- SAT and TOEFL (if applicable) scores sent directly from test administrators to the university;
- Letters of recommendation (if required);
- Essay or personal statement (if required).

You should be aware of the costs involved in the application process:

- Costs of catalogues: \$5-15 approx.
- Non-refundable application fee paid to university: \$30-\$100 (bank draft in US\$ or by credit card)
- Test application fees: SAT I - \$40, SAT II - \$35-\$48, TOEFL - \$125

(add \$5 for SAT I and II for fax registration)

Colleges usually notify their applicants of acceptance or rejection between April and June. Note the deadlines by which you have to reply if you are accepted. If you are accepted by more than one institution, write to the one you decide to accept (pay a deposit if required) and also write to those whose offers you wish to decline.

COSTS & FINANCIAL AID

COSTS: The cost of a US education is a major consideration for the majority of students. It may be particularly so for international students who have the additional responsibility of proving their ability to meet all costs before they will be granted their student visa.

Each individual college sets its own fees; consequently they vary widely (see [Appendix 1](#)). Generally, tuition for state universities ranges from \$3,000-\$14,000. Private universities generally charge between \$8,000-\$25,000 (as of 1998-99). In addition to tuition and fees, usually, students are expected to purchase all of their books as well as any additional supplies required by their major and this can add up to a significant amount.

Living expenses vary and are usually highest in big cities. They range from \$4,000 to \$14,000 per academic year (9 months) which is in ADDITION to tuition costs. Other costs you will need to consider include transportation between the US and your home country, health insurance (required) and personal expenses.

FINANCIAL AID: In the United States, most students expect to get assistance from their families to cover the high cost of education. Universities extend this expectation to international

students as well, therefore you cannot expect to receive an entirely free education. Funding from Local Education Authorities will generally not be available to you when you plan to study outside South Africa.

However, some US universities do offer some form of financial aid to international students. After family resources, US universities are usually the primary source of funding for many international undergraduate students (see [Appendix 2](#)). Private universities are more likely to provide financial aid to international students than state universities. Examine the institution's total costs and if your family can afford 50% and the institution offers financial aid then it is worthwhile applying. Full scholarships that cover total expenses are rare.

Most university financial aid is based on academic merit, although a few will give funding based on need. Other forms of university funding include athletic scholarships, performing arts scholarships or scholarships based on minority or miscellaneous criteria. Make certain to enquire whether universities offer financial aid to international students and for what criteria.

Non-university funding is less common but still available from independent funding bodies, corporations or private individuals. Finding independent funding sources usually requires time and dedication to sift through the listings available in directories and on the Internet. Eligibility for most independent scholarships is limited by very specific criteria, so be certain you meet the eligibility requirements.

Some other sources of financial aid to consider are loans or possible employment with your university. Loans may be available directly from some universities or through certain US lenders providing students find a US citizen who is prepared to co-sign. The provisions of the F-1 student visa allow you to work on-campus for up to 20 hours per week. However, while an on-campus job is a good way of providing pocket money for living expenses, it cannot be used as a source of income for any official financial statements for a visa application.

Talented athletes should request our package of information on “*Athletic Scholarships*”. For further possibilities on all types of financial aid, consult *The International Student Handbook* (university funding) and *Funding for US Study* and *The Scholarship Handbook* (university & independent funding) in our Reference Library.

VISAS

Most international students will enter the US on a non-immigrant student visa. To qualify for a visa, you must have proof of university acceptance for full-time study. Once you accept the university offer and show proof of sufficient funding, the university will send you either an I-20 or an IAP-66 government document, which proves university acceptance. You can then apply for your visa - either an F-1 or a J-1, respectively. South African citizens may be required to return to their home country in order to apply for a visa to the US if applying outside of South Africa.

You should phone the United States Consulate nearest you to confirm visa days, hours and current costs.

10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Nonimmigrant Visa

1) TIES TO HOME COUNTRY. Under U.S. law, all applicants for nonimmigrant visas are viewed as intending immigrants until they can convince the consular officer that they are not. You must therefore be able to show that you have reasons for returning to your home country that are stronger than those for remaining in the United States.

"Ties" to your home country are the things that bind you to your hometown, homeland, or current place of residence: job, family, financial prospects that you own or will inherit, investments, etc. If you are a prospective undergraduate, the interviewing officer may ask about your specific intentions or promise of future employment, family or other relationships, educational objectives, grades, long-range plans, and career prospects in your home country. Each person's situation is different, of course, and there is no magic explanation or single document, certificate, or letter, which can guarantee visa issuance.

2) ENGLISH. Anticipate that the interview will be conducted in English and not in your native language. One suggestion is to practice English conversation with a native speaker before the interview. If you are coming to the United States solely to study intensive English, be prepared to explain how English will be useful for you in your home country.

3) SPEAK FOR YOURSELF. Do not bring parents or family members with you to the interview. The consular officer wants to interview you, not your family. A negative impression is created if you are not prepared to speak on your own behalf. If you are a minor applying for a high school program and need your parents there in case there are questions, for example, about funding, they should wait in the waiting room.

4) KNOW THE PROGRAM AND HOW IT FITS YOUR CAREER PLANS. If you are not able to articulate the reasons you will study in a particular program in the United States, you may not succeed in convincing the consular officer that you are indeed planning to study, rather than to immigrate. You should also be able to explain how studying in the United States relates to your future professional career when you return home.

5) BE CONCISE. Because of the volume of applications received, all consular officers are under considerable time pressure to conduct a quick and efficient interview. They must make a decision, for the most part, on the impressions they form during the first minute or two of the interview. Consequently, what you say first and the initial impression you create are critical to your success. Keep your answers to the officer's questions short and to the point.

6) SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION. It should be clear at a glance to the consular officer what written documents you are presenting and what they signify. Lengthy written explanations cannot be quickly read or evaluated. Remember that you will have 2-3 minutes of interview time, if you're lucky.

7) NOT ALL COUNTRIES ARE EQUAL. Applicants from countries suffering economic problems or from countries where many students have remained in the United States as immigrants will have more difficulty getting visas. Statistically, applicants from those countries are more likely to be intending immigrants. They are also more likely to be asked about job opportunities at home after their study in the United States.

8) EMPLOYMENT. Your main purpose of coming to the United States should be to study, not for the chance to work before or after graduation. While many students do work off-campus during their studies, such employment is incidental to their main purpose of completing their U.S. education. You must be able to clearly articulate your plan to return home at the end of your program. If your spouse is also applying for an accompanying F-2 visa, be aware that F-2 dependents cannot, under any circumstances, be employed in the United States. If asked, be prepared to address what your spouse intends to do with his or her time while in the United States. Volunteer work and attending school part-time are permitted activities.

9) **DEPENDENTS REMAINING AT HOME.** If your spouse and children are remaining behind in your country, be prepared to address how they will support themselves in your absence. This can be an especially tricky area if you are the primary source of income for your family. If the consular officer gains the impression that your family members will need you to remit money from the United States in order to support themselves, your student visa application will almost certainly be denied. If your family does decide to join you at a later time, it is helpful to have them apply at the same post where you applied for your visa.

10) **MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.** Do not engage the consular officer in an argument. If you are denied a student visa, ask the officer for a list of documents he or she would suggest you bring in order to overcome the refusal, and try to get the reason you were denied in writing.

This document was produced by NAFSA: Association of International Educators. NAFSA would like to credit Gerald A. Wunsch, Esq., 1997, then a member of the Consular Issues Working Group, and a former U.S. Consular Officer in Mexico, Suriname, and the Netherlands and Martha Wailes of Indiana University for their contributions to this document. NAFSA also appreciates the input of the U.S. Department of State.

CHOOSING A US UNIVERSITY

Choosing a university from thousands of miles away presents serious difficulties. Most American students would visit campuses for guided tours, meet admissions officers or even spend the night on campus with enrolled students. The international student must use directories, college search computer software, university catalogues and videotapes, attend international college fairs and correspond directly with professors and admissions personnel to get his/her questions answered. Once you start the process of researching possible undergraduate programs, you will be overwhelmed with choice as there are over 3,600 US universities. You and your family need to narrow that choice by compiling a list of factors important to you. The following information is meant to provide you with criteria you might want to consider. Not all factors are equally important to all students, so work out your own priorities.

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Area of Concentration: It is not essential to declare the area of concentration you plan to undertake when you enter a university. If you have a definite degree objective, however, identify universities offering that field. A great many subjects are taught in every university, so choice of fields does not necessarily eliminate many institutions! In some fields, however, you may want to check out possible specialization (for example, many universities offer education but only a few offer physical education or special education).

Academic Emphasis: Get an idea of how the university emphasizes its curriculum. Is it pre-professional or liberal arts? Do the undergraduates dominate the campus or do the postgraduates? Many liberal arts colleges emphasize teaching and professor/student interaction, so the teacher to student ratio is quite low. Some research centered campuses are postgraduate dominated and undergraduates are secondary; however, facilities are often state of the art and professors are world-renowned.

Courses: Study the course catalogue and course descriptions. Many international students choose the US system because of the flexibility it offers through the liberal arts framework. Some

degrees, however, are highly structured and universities dictate exact coursework. Prescribed coursework does not allow for student athletes who want to take a lighter load "in season" or double major options for the motivated student.

Rate of Return: The rate of return of students who continue after their first year gives an indication of the program difficulty level and student satisfaction level, so try to get more information on this.

Accreditation: Check that any university you are considering is regionally accredited. You can obtain more information on accreditation and the accreditation process from the Educational Advisory Service.

COST

Study the fee structure printed in most university prospectuses carefully and incorporate into your calculations the cost of room, food, tuition, fees, travel and other expenses for the full four years.

Private vs. State-Supported: US universities are either private or state-supported. In general the tuition fees at state-supported universities are less expensive than private universities. International students, however, are considered non-state residents and are charged "out-of-state" tuition rates, which are higher than in-state rates. Some state universities are limited in the percentage of out-of-state students they can enroll. Neither cost nor type of university is necessarily an indicator of the quality of the university, however.

Tuition: Note the cost of tuition and fees and be aware that tuition costs may rise each year.

Housing: Try to find out if housing is available for all four years of enrolment. If students are asked to find off-campus housing for one or two years, find out the cost of off-campus housing.

Meal Plan: Some universities mandate that first year students must purchase the meal plan, while other universities offer options within the meal plan including the number of meals per week or the meal halls used etc.

Financial Aid: Some US universities offer financial aid for international students (See [Appendix 2](#) for a sampling of universities). Check the amount of the average award, the percentage of financial aid awarded and the nature of the awards, whether they are need-based or academically based. It is possible that a university will allow an international student to be on a payment plan so that they can pay the tuition in installments.

ADMISSION DIFFICULTY

Because the US university system is so extensive, admission requirements vary greatly. This means that private universities and liberal arts colleges at the top of the selectivity indices receive enormous numbers of applications and accept only a small percentage, while other colleges can accept all applicants who meet their admission standards. Most directories will give information such as the average SAT score for the previous year's accepted students. In addition, directories and many college prospectuses will list the percentage of students accepted the previous year. Selectivity assessments using this type of data, however, tend to put weight on test admission scores that are only one part of an application and not necessarily the most important part.

SIZE AND LOCATION

Size: Many international students do not realize that US universities' enrolment size can range from 200-50,000. Some universities resemble small cities with their own post offices, grocery stores and shopping centers. Size ranges offer different opportunities and academic climates for the undergraduate. Some large campuses are located in very small rural towns where the students and the universities dominate the local economy. Other schools may be in large, densely populated urban areas with a very small enrolment.

Location: The climate in the US varies considerably from one region to another. Every region offers both urban and rural settings. Some areas present more security concerns than others. The undergraduate student candidate should be informed about security risks and precautions. Some international students have relatives living in the US and this may be a major influence on the choice of universities.

INSTITUTION PERSONALITY

Social Life: Some US universities have reputations as either social schools or very quiet academic schools. In addition, some schools may be known as "commuter schools," meaning that most students live off-campus and commute into classes, which affects the campus atmosphere. Potential undergraduates will want to know what the atmosphere is like at weekends on campus; if most students have cars, they might leave to go on road trips or back home to visit family every weekend and vacate the campus.

International Students: Some US universities enroll a substantial number of international students while others may only enroll one or two students. You may either be considered a very special person to get to know or you may have a built-in support group who can share your experiences.

Personality: All US universities will accept students of any race, color or creed. Many universities or colleges, however, were founded with a certain mission, whether to provide a religious atmosphere on campus, a single sex educational experience or a majority ethnic student population. Read university missions printed in college prospectuses carefully and decide if your goals match the goals of the campus. As well, all US universities will accept students of any age and the application process is usually the same for all students, regardless of age. However, some universities have services available for adult students or have larger populations of adult students, which may make the transition to student life easier.

Extracurricular Activities: US universities offer many opportunities for students to develop skills through extracurricular activities such as sports teams, academic clubs, university newspapers, drama productions and other rewarding programs.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Student Services: US universities cater to the needs of the student through services such as international student advisers, counseling services, legal aid services, housing offices, varied meal plans, health centers, tutoring facilities, and many other helpful services.

Academic Distinctions: Many US universities award academic distinctions to outstanding graduating seniors which often provide an incentive for students.

Internship or Overseas Study Programs: Many US universities have incorporated into their curriculum internship or overseas study programs.

Graduates: The job-placement success of a university's graduating seniors is one indication of the emphasis of the curriculum. Universities will tell prospective students the number of their graduates finding professional positions and the number accepted to postgraduate programmes.

Students with Disabilities: If you have special needs then you need to make sure that the college can accommodate you. Advise the admissions office of your disability early in the process and obtain information about facilities offered from the college's Office of Disabled Student Services. Find out what services are provided automatically and whether any extra costs will be incurred.

The Educational Advisory Service offers educational advisers, a library and a resource center to assist you in gathering the information you may need.

Grading on the Curve: College Ratings and Rankings

by Glenn Kersten, January 2000

When it comes to colleges, nearly everyone has an opinion. Some base their opinion on the reputation of the school; some on personal experience; and others on current sports scores. As librarians, we like to think that we have more objective sources for evaluating colleges and universities.

It ain't necessarily so.

There is much research on the validity of numerical scores used to rank academic institutions. These studies reveal a number of problems:

- It is virtually impossible to quantify the *quality* of education.
- What is important to one college applicant may be meaningless to another.
- The existence of a ranking system encourages colleges to boost their scores by providing misleading, exaggerated, or downright incorrect information to the ratings services. (Almost all of the "hard" data used by college guides and rating sources is provided by the schools themselves, without independent confirmation.)
- It is not meaningful to evaluate entire institutions with a single numerical score. Even university *departments* vary from year to year with respect to faculty and funding, let alone the college as a whole.
- Ranking services often change their methodology, so that a college ranked number one last year could dive to tenth place this year, and vice versa. Cynics have noted

that jumbling the rankings this way leads to increased sales of the ratings publication, compared to a listing that remains relatively static from year to year.

- Differences between the ranked positions may be statistically insignificant, but forcing them to be placed in an arbitrary scale exaggerates these differences. In other words, there may be little difference in quality between the schools ranked #2 and #20, but the uninformed consumer naturally thinks otherwise.
- Lists of "best" schools are worthless unless the judging criteria are specific, non-arbitrary, and clearly spelled out for the reader—and the data to be judged must be accurate and independently verified.

These criticisms indicate that there are serious problems with the current ratings methodology. But beyond that, what is the attitude of the general public toward ranking services?

True or False?

1. High school seniors rely heavily on college rating guides when selecting a school to attend.

False. The sources of information most frequently consulted (in rank order) include: parents, friends and classmates, students attending or soon to be attending colleges of interest, college brochures, and materials in high school guidance and career centers. Only those students from upper middle and upper class families tend to use these guides, and, even then, they place more emphasis on "human" sources of information. A 1997 survey of college freshmen released by the Higher Education Research Institute reported that, of the 251,232 freshmen surveyed, only 8.6 percent considered colleges' rankings in national magazines to be "very important" when selecting a college.

2. University administrators and admissions officers are relatively unconcerned about their school's standings in the ratings.

True. Although a few institutions are concerned enough about rankings to supply inaccurate information to guidebook and ratings publishers to boost their status, the evidence from various studies indicates that most are not particularly influenced by the school's rankings. (That situation may change if state legislators begin to tie school funding to ranking status, however. The January 1997 issue of *State Policy Reports*, a bulletin for state higher education policy makers, points out a correlation between school quality ratings and the return on investment that states receive for their support of public higher education. This newsletter even provides its own rankings for states with high and low rates of return.)

Red Herring Time?

You may well ask, if college ratings are mostly irrelevant, sometimes inaccurate, and have so little effect on the decision-making process for high school seniors, then why bother reviewing them? There are several reasons. For one thing, these services are *perceived* as important by the general public. This is clear from the huge sales of college ratings

publications.

Another reason is the recent proliferation of sources. Not long ago, libraries had only a handful of ratings guides for comparison, including the *Gourman Report* and *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*. Lately, however, some national magazines have discovered that there is profit to be made in the college-bound market; among them, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Money Magazine*, *Time*, and *Newsweek*. It's difficult for a librarian to keep track of so many sources.

Most importantly, many ratings do have merit, as long as prospective students are cautious about interpreting them.

In the end, college-bound students are looking for a quick, easy way to compare the thousands of schools available to them. Ratings services, though less influential than personal advice and campus visits, do provide a way to winnow the choices to a manageable number.

Print Sources

Education Rankings Annual. This Gale publication is a compilation of ratings from many different sources, including scholarly journals, college guides, government publications, newspapers, and popular magazines. The wide range of sources helps to insure that selective bias is avoided; in fact the editors have purposely excluded sources that have been widely criticized by academicians. Both current and "classic" studies are included, to give perspective. The introduction states that "there is no individual ranking in any area of education that should be considered THE definitive ranking. Rankings change and vary over time . . . [and] all rankings in the educational arena should be examined and compared with other available studies; they should not be judged in a vacuum." Some of the specific ratings include academic reputation, citation analysis, peer evaluations, distinguished alumni, student achievement in later life, admissions selectivity, application rates, test scores, tuition, faculty salaries, and library and computer facilities. The index conveniently lists, for each institution, all ratings which included the school. The focus is on U.S. universities, but it is unclear how many are involved overall. This source is expensive, but recommended.

The Gourman Report. This reference source, published annually since 1967, has received more criticism than perhaps any other source. The author steadfastly refuses to explain in detail how the ratings are determined, other than that colleges are rated in 10 different categories. None of the information is provided (directly, at least) by the colleges themselves, and no students or staff are interviewed, so the sources of information largely remain a mystery. Now the *Gourman Report* is being published by the prestigious Princeton Review, and according to an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* ("A Self-Published College Guide Goes Big-Time, and Educators Cry Foul," November 7, 1997, pp. A45-A46), critics are concerned that it will gain legitimacy. *GR* ranks more than 1,200 undergraduate colleges, and approximately 140 major disciplines; another edition similarly rates graduate and professional programs.

Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges. Frederick Rugg rates roughly 800 "quality four-year colleges" that offer bachelor's degrees, based largely on student input. Data from high school counselors and college admissions officers is also used. The ratings are provided for 80 majors; and for each major, the ratings are further broken down into "most selective, very selective, and selective." Ratings are simplistic and one-dimensional, but this guide is useful for those who prefer the opinions of students over those from "The

Establishment."

America's Best Colleges. Published by the editors of *U.S. News & World Report*, this was the first general periodical to offer a special annual edition devoted to ratings (followed by *Money Magazine*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and even *Mother Jones*). The popularity of that issue surprised everyone. It is now the best-selling issue for the entire year, and it has been expanded to include an *America's Best Graduate Schools* edition. Rankings take into account geographic region, public versus private schools, liberal arts strength, and "specialty schools," as well as the traditional rating by major. This publisher has received almost as much criticism as the *Gourman Report* in recent years, partly because the rating methodology changes so frequently. The publisher also has a strong Web presence (<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/corank.htm>).

Online Sources

College and University Rankings. An excellent, comprehensive overview of college rating sources; particularly those available on the Internet. Includes a bibliography of cautionary notes about the precarious nature of rankings. Highly recommended.
<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/edx/rankings.htm>

"Rankings and Ratings," Enrollment Management Review, volume 13, issue 4 (Summer 1997). From College Board Online, a clear, readable summary of research on the influence of ratings on high school students and on colleges themselves.
<http://cbweb1.collegeboard.org/aes/emr/emrsu97/html/rank.html>

For Further Information

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The Gourman Report: A Rating of Undergraduate Programs in American and International Universities, by Jack Gourman. 10th edition, 1998. Random House.

"The Quest for Quality in Higher Education," by Hal Hovey. *State Policy Reports*, v. 15, n. 2, Jan. 1997, pp. 2-24.

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Glenn Kersten is a Research Librarian at the Suburban Library System Reference Service.

TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

Two-year colleges in the United States offer an alternative to the more traditional four-year bachelor's degree programmes, providing access to high quality post-secondary studies to many who might otherwise not continue their education. **It should be noted, however, that completing one's study at a two-year college IS NOT equivalent to obtaining a four-year bachelor's**

degree.

Known as community, technical or junior colleges, these institutions offer study in a wide range of subjects to post-secondary students of all ages and academic intention, from those who simply wish to take a short course to those wishing to eventually pursue a bachelor's degree and beyond. In addition to educational flexibility, two-year colleges are also known for their affordability. Tuition costs are low for those living within the area "covered" by the college, as much of the funding for these colleges comes from the communities surrounding them, hence the term "community" college. Though costs are slightly higher for those coming from outside these districts, they are still relatively low in comparison to four-year colleges. Many students will also save money on living costs by living at home or with a relative.

Courses of Study

These institutions are often referred to as two-year colleges as this is the normal amount of time needed to complete the degree awarded at this level, known as an associate's degree. The **Associate of Arts (A.A.)** and the **Associate of Science (A.S.)** degrees are offered in a wide variety of liberal arts and science subjects designed to meet the requirements of the first two years of a baccalaureate degree. Degree requirements are established to ensure that students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to either continue toward a bachelor's degree, transferring for their final two years to an accredited four-year college or university, or to competitively enter the workforce.

Community colleges also offer occupational-technical programs designed to prepare students directly for employment or to assist those already employed to update their skills. The **Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.)** degree is offered in vocational and technical areas such as business, industry and computer programming. Certificates of completion are also awarded in specific programs that require varying amounts of study.

In addition to academic and vocational degree programs, most two-year colleges offer programs to help students improve their basic academic skills and prepare them for lifelong learning. Adult education courses are offered to address the individual's and community's social, intellectual and recreational interests.

Admission Requirements and Procedures

Generally speaking, for admission to a two-year college one should have completed schooling up to Standard 10 (Grade 12) and achieved a senior certificate. For students who intend to transfer to a four-year college upon completion of an associate's degree, usually a minimum of a senior certificate with exemption will be required. Many colleges will also require that the student take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and, for non-native English speakers, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Admission requirements and procedures will be similar to those for four-year colleges, as described in the Beginner's Guide to Undergraduate Study in the US distributed by EAS. There are, however, major differences between community college and university admission. One is the application deadline. Community college deadlines for fall entry can be anywhere between March and the day before classes start in August. Another difference is the open enrolment policy that most community colleges use. Open enrolment means that every applicant will be accepted into the institution. If an applicant has a minimal academic record, the community college might require you to take coursework designed to prepare you for more advanced coursework. Four-year universities may offer you pending admission and ask you to complete a semester or more of introductory coursework at a community college in order to fulfil admission requirements into the four-year institution. After completion of the required coursework, providing that you have done well at the community college, you will be admitted

into a regular degree programme at the four-year university.

Admission requirements for non-degree courses may vary widely, so it is necessary to check with the individual college directly or to find their information in the reference library of EAS.

Transferring

Many students with an associate degree from a regionally accredited two-year college will transfer to an accredited four-year bachelor's programme in the third or "junior" year. This process is made possible through articulation agreements between two-year and four-year colleges, which guarantees that courses taken at an accredited two-year college will transfer into a four-year college. Articulation agreements are more likely to occur between institutions within a state system (i.e. a community college in Ohio and a four-year in New York are less likely to have a reciprocal agreement than two institutions in the same state). You can find out about any articulation agreements that exist by writing to the two-year or four-year colleges that you are interested in attending. You can also check the resources in the EAS reference library.

International students wishing to attend a two-year college with the intention of transferring to a four-year bachelor's degree program should be very careful about planning their entire undergraduate program in advance. Some four-year colleges have strict guidelines for transferring which will require some degree of forward planning. One should consider such factors as whether or not the two-year college has an articulation agreement with four-year colleges; what requirements will the four-year institution have for accepting transfer credits; and what level of grades will be required for transferring.

Housing

The majority of students attending two-year colleges live in the local community and commute to classes from home. Although some institutions guarantee on-campus accommodation for foreign students, the great majority of colleges do not provide student housing; though there may be a housing office or a foreign student adviser to assist you in finding local accommodation.

Costs and Financial Aid

There is no financial aid for foreign students to attend two-year colleges as they are

state and locally supported, though some colleges will offer a number of athletic scholarships for talented athletes. Please refer to our "*Athletic Scholarships*" guide for more information. Costs are relatively low in comparison with four-year colleges. Tuition and fees will vary, but are normally under \$4000 per academic year.

For more information on two-year colleges consult *Peterson's Guide to Two-Year Colleges* (Peterson's, annual) or *Peterson's Guide to Vocational and Technical Schools - East & West* (Peterson's, annual) both of which are available in the EAS reference library.

The Internet has a wealth of information on two-year colleges. The following web sites may be useful in your search:

Peterson's: <http://www.petersons.com>

The American Association of Community Colleges: <http://www.aacc.nche.edu>

TIME SCHEDULE FOR APPLYING TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

This is the recommended timeframe for applying to universities but it is often the case that students complete the process in a much shorter time period.

18 months prior to enrolment - consider, research, and prepare the following:

- What are your reasons for wanting to study in the USA?
- Think about the type of college or university you would like to attend and begin researching suitable institutions.
- How much money can your family provide each year for your education? Will you need financial aid?
- Find out application/financial aid deadlines. This will affect when you will need to take the standardized tests required for admission. The tests should be taken in advance of submitting university applications.
- Find out which tests are required by your prospective universities and register to sit the test.

TEST	DATE (exact dates are on the back of the current bulletin)	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
<u>SAT I & SAT II</u> You cannot sit the SAT I and SAT II on the same day.	October November December January May June	September October October December March April

All of the available SAT II subject tests are not given on all dates, so check the latest bulletin.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is held many times every month. (Contact

Sylvan Prometric at 011 713 0600 for more information)

18 month countdown to enrolment - complete the following (months indicated are estimates)

November

- In the months before you begin your 12th grade year register for the SAT exams you will need to take.

December

- Take the SAT I and register for the SAT II in January.

April

- Register to take the SAT's again if necessary in May and June. Avoid taking the SAT's in November during trials, or during exam terms.

August

- Write to universities for application and financial aid forms/catalogues.
- Obtain test registration forms to sit the SAT I and, if necessary, the SAT II. Begin preparing for the tests.

September

- Request an official transcript from your school for each university to which you wish to apply.
- Request letters of recommendation from your teachers.
- Prepare application essays.
- Double check that transcripts/references have been sent to your chosen universities.
- Sit the appropriate admissions test(s).

November - April

- Submit completed applications in time for university deadlines.

April - June

- Letters of acceptance or rejection will arrive. Decide which university to attend, notify them of your decision, complete and return any forms they require.
- Send letters of regret to those universities you reject.
- Organize finances (arrange to transfer funds to a US bank, make sure you have funds for travel and expenses on arrival).
- Finalize arrangements for housing and medical insurance with your university.

July

- Apply to US Embassy for visa on receipt of the I-20 from the US university you will attend.
- Make travel arrangements.
- Contact the International Student Office at your university with details of your arrival plans.
- Obtain the EAS guide to living and studying in the US, and pre-departure information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

What are the SAT I, the SAT II and the ACT? Will I have to take these tests? How do I register? What is the TOEFL? If English is not my first language, but I have studied in Britain, will I have to take it? How do I register?

What is a transcript and how do I get one?

Do I need to hold A Levels or Higher Grades to get into US universities?

Will the American system recognize my Independent Board Exam or Scottish Qualifications Agency Higher National Diploma?

How do I find out which college offers the subject I want to study?

In South Africa I'm considered a "mature student." Can I still apply to US universities?

Which are the top American colleges? Where can I get a list?

What are the SAT I, the SAT II and the ACT? Will I have to take these tests? How do I register?

The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) I, SAT II and the American College Test (ACT) are standardized assessment tests which form a part of the admissions process in most American universities. **ONLY** the SAT I and the SAT II are offered in South Africa. The SAT I is a general aptitude test which covers maths and verbal skills, and SAT IIs are specialized subject tests. Each university to which you apply will have its own policy with respect to these tests, so you will need to check each catalogue or consult a college guide for current requirements. The tests are held in various regions of South Africa 6 times a year. However, as these are US tests for admission into US universities the administration is done by organizations in the US. Test registration and preparation materials are available from EAS but please note that you cannot register through our office. On-line registration for the SAT is also available with a valid credit card (<http://www.collegeboard.org>). Internet access and computerized test preparation software are available at EAS's Technology Center.

What is the TOEFL? If English is not my first language, but I have studied in Britain, will I have to take it? How do I register?

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is a standardized test designed to evaluate the language proficiency of a non-native English speaker. Generally, it is required of applicants whose country of origin is not English speaking. If this applies to you, but you have studied in an English-speaking country, you will need to allow time in the application process to correspond with admissions officers about the TOEFL. They may waive the requirement if you do well enough in your high school English and on the SAT exams. The test is held in South Africa and you can obtain test registration and preparation materials from EAS but please note that you will need to register via Sylvan Prometric (011 713 0600).

What is a transcript and how do I get one?

In American terminology, a transcript is a record card that follows a student throughout his/her education at each institution. It usually contains a listing of the classes he/she has taken and the grade or mark achieved in the class. These grades are averaged numerically to compute the student's GPA or Grade Point Average. While the senior certificates alone may be sufficient for some universities, others may ask for additional information such as the syllabi for your exams, which you will have to obtain from your school or college.

Do I need to hold a senior certificate with exemption to get into US universities?

Most US universities will expect you to hold the senior certificate with exemption, just as South African universities require them.

Will the American system recognize my Independent Board Exam or Scottish Qualifications Agency Higher National Diploma?

There is no official method of equating the US and South African education systems. However, Independent Board Exams are generally recognized as being of a more difficult standard. The Scottish Higher's are considered professional qualifications rather than academic qualifications.

How do I find out which college offers the subject I want to study?

The EAS reference library contains comprehensive directories such as Peterson's *Four-Year Colleges* or Barron's *Profiles of American Colleges*, which have universities, listed by subjects (majors). Peterson's *Applying to Colleges and Universities in the United States* also provides lists of universities by broad subject area, this book should have been included with this package. Software such as *Career and College Quest* can also help you draw up a list of universities according to subject area. However, you should note that at the undergraduate level, you are enrolling in a liberal arts degree program, which is more wide-ranging than the more focused South Africa degree programs. While you want to choose a college that has strengths in your preferred subject, keep in mind that you will not pursue that subject to the exclusion of all others. An American degree concentrates in one academic area, yet draws from several other areas in order to provide a broad base of knowledge for the graduate. While you will spend much of your time in the last two years concentrating on your major field of study, during your first two years, you will also be required to take classes in a range of fields outside your major. Known as general education requirements these classes will cover maths, sciences, humanities, social sciences, languages and possibly physical education!

Common subjects like engineering, English, history or biology are offered by most universities in the US, which could leave you with a list of over 1,000 institutions from which to choose. When choosing a college look at the total picture of the university's undergraduate program: academic, geographic, social and financial and determine the criteria most important to you. Read the section Choosing a US University in this guide for suggested criteria. You will also want to talk to people who have been educated in America for a personal view of study in the US.

In South Africa I'm considered a "mature student." Can I still apply to US universities?

Yes. There is no age limit on applying to US universities and many universities have a sizeable proportion of students who are starting as "non-traditional" age students i.e. older than 17/18 years of age. The admissions office should treat you the same as any other applicant and there is no official designation of mature students. However, you may want to consider factors such as the size of the "non-traditional" student population, as well as housing and special services for older students to be sure that you are comfortable in the university environment. If you have dependents, you will need to factor their needs into the costs of attending the university. University international offices can usually provide information on childcare and schools in the local area.

Which are the top American colleges? Where can I get a list?

There is no "official" ranking of American institutions. There is no direct US Government control over the 3,000-plus universities and colleges, and no "official" body to make such a ranking. Unofficial rankings do exist and can often be found in the popular press but they generally do not rank all the institutions in the US. The EAS does not compile ranked lists of colleges but our reference library contains some of these unofficial rankings which you are welcome to consult in-person. Some are available on the Internet. In the past rankings have been found to be unreliable so the wise student does not use them as a shortcut to doing thorough research into which college is right for him/her. If you do decide to apply to one of the "top colleges" make sure you also apply to less challenging schools as well to ensure yourself a place at an American university. If you are an average or below average student, it is unlikely that you will be accepted at the more competitive institutions.

Resources on Undergraduate Study at the Educational Advisory Service United States Consulate, Durban

The Educational Advisory Service (EAS) of the United States Consulate, Durban is funded by the US Government to provide information and advice on US education. The EAS houses a resource center including a reference library and Advising Technology Center which offers computer search packages, Internet access and test preparation software. Resources for finding athletic scholarships include several directories concerning colleges that offer athletics and/or scholarships, international academic standards for athletics ability, recruitment guidelines, data on team records, coaches and college facilities, test preparation guides for reference use or for sale, and application forms for the SAT and TOEFL.

Students and parents are welcome to use these resources Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 am to 4:00pm. Should you wish to speak to an Educational Adviser in person, telephone hours are Mondays through Wednesdays **only** from 8 to 4pm. The phone number is (031) 3044737 extension 116.

EAS hosts group information sessions each Monday at 12 noon and again on Tuesdays at 8am. It is essential to attend one of these programs if you are interested in attending an American institution.

Useful Resources in our Library:

SAT and TOEFL study Guides

Peterson's Guide to Four Year Colleges and Universities

Peterson's Guide to 2 Year Colleges in the United States

Career and College Quest: A database of 4-year colleges and universities in the United States.

Plus the library contains over 350 videos of U.S. colleges and universities as well as many more printed and computer based information resources on study in the United States.

APPENDIX I:

UNDERGRADUATE FEES AT US COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

The following tables offer a selection of college and university tuition fees, living expenses and average financial aid to give you an indication of the cost variations. Fees are for the academic year 2003/04. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of colleges/universities in the US and you should always confirm costs with the universities.

Name of Institution	State (USA)	Public/Private	Total Enrollment	% International	Number of countries represented	Tuition	Room and Board	Books	Total Financial Support Required/Year	Need-Based Aid Non-US Citizens	Merit-Based Aid Non-US Citizens	Athletic-Based Aid Non-US Citizens	Average Aid Awarded Non-US Citizens	Number of International Students Aided
Abilene Christian University	TX	Pri	3900	5	65	\$12,750	\$4,560	\$1,400	\$19,295	N	Y	Y	\$3,000	65
Adelphi University	NY	Pri	3063	7	59	\$17,800	\$8,200	\$4,000	\$28,600	N	Y	Y	\$8,500	
Adrian College	MI	Pri	1046	1	7	\$16,470		\$2,175	\$18,945	N	Y	N	\$5,170	16
Agnes Scott College	GA	Pri	900	8	31	\$20,470	\$7,760	\$4,230	\$29,742	N	Y	N	\$12,000	18
Albright College	PA	Pri	1350	5	22	\$21,970	\$6,809	\$1,500	\$31,000	N	Y	N	\$7,000	
Allegheny College	PA	Pri	1900	7	22	\$24,100	\$5,880	\$1,700	\$32,000	N	Y	N	\$12,500	38
Alliant International University	CA	Pri	532	29	80	\$16,520	\$6,880	\$4,595	\$29,190	N	Y	Y	\$3,217	
American InterContinental University	CA	Pri	1500	15		\$17,640	\$9,000	\$2,000	\$39,220	Y	N	N		
American International College	MA	Pri	1400	10	52	\$15,700	\$7,696	\$3,500	\$26,896	N	Y	Y	\$3,500	
American University	DC	Pri	5872	9	140	\$23,068	\$9,488	\$3,075	\$34,500	N	Y	Y	\$16,111	101
Amherst College	MA	Pri	1620	6	40	\$29,170	\$7,740	\$3,570	\$40,990	Y	N	N	\$33,658	53
Ashland University	OH	Pri	2648	2	16	\$17,518	\$6,672	\$3,535	\$28,181	N	Y	Y	\$7,469	30
Azusa Pacific University	CA	Pri	3500	6	41	\$18,490	\$6,600	\$3,960	\$29,636	N	Y	Y	\$2,500	
Babson College	MA	Pri	1719	20	70	\$24,544	\$8,746	\$2,600	\$34,800	N	Y	N	\$6,250	
Bard College	NY	Pri	1343	12	47	\$28,244	\$8,544	\$1,500	\$20,000	Y	Y	N	\$14,000	19

Barnard College	NY	Pri	2300	5	37	\$26,528	\$10,462	\$2,100	\$39,090	Y	Y	N		2
Bates College	ME	Pri	1767	5	68	\$37,500		\$2,050	\$39,550	Y	N	N	\$31,255	61
Beloit College	WI	Pri	1175	10	50	\$24,166	\$5,478	\$1,800	\$15,000	Y	Y	N	\$13,000	84
Bennington College	VT	Pri	627	12	19	\$25,900	\$6,700	\$1,700	\$26,500	Y	Y	N	\$18,000	100 %
Bentley College	MA	Pri	4316	9	63	\$24,120	\$9,580	\$4,475	\$38,964	N	Y	N		
Berkeley College	NY	Pri	4700	8	84	\$14,685	\$8,000	\$1,000	\$25,000	Y	Y	N	\$3,500	50%
Berry College	GA	Pri	1898	3	26	\$15,220	\$6,190	\$1,745	\$23,155	N	Y	Y	\$4,800	
Bethany College	WV	Pri	828	6	20	\$12,720	\$6,350	\$1,000	\$11,000	Y	N	N	\$8,000	42
Black Hawk College	IL	Pub	5600	1	24	\$6,312	\$7,200	\$1,900	\$15,812	Y	Y	Y	\$777	15
Boston College	MA	Pri	8900	3	98	\$27,080	\$9,300	\$2,000	\$43,130	N	Y	Y		
Boston University	MA	Pri	15521	7	13 7	\$28,512	\$9,288	\$4,339	\$42,533	N	Y	Y	\$14,256	
Bowdoin College	ME	Pri	1600	5	26	\$29,470	\$7,670	\$2,010	\$37,790	Y	N	N	\$25,750	65
Brandeis University	MA	Pri	3081	6	55	\$28,984	\$8,320	\$2,528	\$40,702	Y	Y	N	\$21,337	91
Brenau University	GA	Pri	600	6	25	\$14,140	\$7,760	\$1,100	\$23,050	N	Y	Y	\$11,263	20
Brown University	RI	Pri	5500	10	77	\$28,942	\$8,184	\$3,336	\$41,350	Y	N	N	\$28,000	42
Bryant College	RI	Pri	2700	4	42	\$22,458	\$8,374	\$3,600	\$34,432	N	Y	Y	\$6,168	
Bryn Mawr College	PA	Pri	1252	10	45	\$26,830	\$9,370	\$2,450	\$39,250	Y	N	N	\$28,000	38
Bucknell University	PA	Pri	3350	3	53	\$28,764	\$6,302	\$5,175	\$40,437	Y	N	N	\$10,000	25
Butler University	IN	Pri	3580	2	51	\$20,990	\$7,040	\$750	\$31,780	N	Y	Y	\$7,000	
CA Institute of the Arts	CA	Pri	787	15	39	\$23,900	\$8,000	\$3,310	\$35,000	N	Y	N		
CA Lutheran University	CA	Pri	1816	4	33	\$20,000	\$7,520	\$2,000	\$29,770	N	Y	N	\$3,600	25
Caldwell College	NJ	Pri	1077	4	26	\$16,800	\$7,000	\$1,800	\$25,700	N	Y	Y	\$4,710	6
Calvin College	MI	Pri	4288	8	45	\$16,775	\$5,840	\$2,285	\$24,900	Y	Y	N	\$7,900	55%
Campbell University	NC	Pri	2543	6	56	\$13,260	\$4,756	\$2,000	\$20,778	N	Y	Y	\$5,033	
Carleton College	MN	Pri	1880	4	27	\$28,400	\$5,870	\$2,019	\$39,635	Y	N	N	\$25,000	25
Carson-Newman College	TN	Pri	2019	4	22	\$12,900	\$5,105	\$2,650	\$22,375	N	Y	Y	\$6,974	28
Cazenovia College	NY	Pri	775	1	7	\$16,730	\$6,900	\$2,000	\$26,000	N	Y	N		
Centre College	KY	Pri	1055	1	13	\$20,400	\$6,900	\$700	\$27,300	Y	Y	N	\$10,438	8
Champlain College	VT	Pri	2217	4	20	\$12,195	\$8,400	\$1,310	\$21,795	Y	N	N	\$3,150	7
Chapman University	CA	Pri	3500	10	51	\$22,700	\$9,116	\$1,600	\$33,416	N	Y	N		
Chatham College	PA	Pri	639	6	19	\$20,360	\$6,714	\$800	\$2,750	N	Y	N	\$6,902	27
Chestnut Hill College	PA	Pri	1000	3		\$18,375	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$30,400	N	Y	N		
Christian Brothers University	TN	Pri	1200	6	41	\$16,740	\$4,960	\$1,000	\$22,150	N	Y	Y	\$3,000	

Claremont McKenna College	CA	Pri	1030	3	25	\$26,350	\$8,740	\$2,750	\$39,400	N	Y	N	\$5,000	
Clark University	MA	Pri	1947	8	57	\$26,700	\$5,150	\$3,027	\$35,442	Y	Y	N	\$13,404	
Clarke College	IA	Pri	1107	4	14	\$16,580	\$6,075	\$1,500	\$3,000	N	Y	N	\$4,000	
Clarkson University	NY	Pri	2618	4	44	\$23,100	\$9,276	\$3,074	\$35,300	N	Y	N	\$8,000	
Colby College	ME	Pri	1830	9	63	\$37,570		\$1,400	\$38,970	Y	N	N	\$34,430	30
Colby-Sawyer College	NH	Pri	940	4	9	\$22,200	\$8,520	\$1,500	\$32,220	N	Y	N	\$5,000	1
Colgate University	NY	Pri	2781	4	27	\$28,165	\$6,775	\$1,460	\$36,400	Y	N	N	\$30,898	40 of 45
College for Creative Studies	MI	Pri	1204	6	16	\$19,062	\$5,500	\$5,000	\$30,462	N	Y	N	\$2,500	
College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University	MN	Pri	3969	3	36	\$20,335	\$5,987	\$1,830	\$28,502	N	Y	N	\$14,260	65
College of St Catherine	MN	Pri	3569	2	37	\$19,520	\$5,700	\$2,095	\$27,565	Y	Y	N	\$9,000	70
Columbia College	MO	Pri	860	8	25	\$11,362	\$4,770	\$2,100	\$18,232	N	Y	Y	\$8,221	
Columbia University	NY	Pri	5161	15	60	\$29,040	\$8,750	\$2,200	\$39,900	Y	N	N	\$25,000	8
Concordia College	MN	Pri	2775	6	41	\$16,560	\$4,540	\$2,500	\$23,600	Y	Y	N	\$7,600	151
Connecticut College	CT	Pri	1800	10	48	\$37,900		\$2,400	\$38,025	Y	N	N	\$32,435	69
Cornell University	NY	Pri	13500	7	76	\$28,754	\$12,240	\$2,635	\$43,629	Y	N	N	\$17,000	15
Creighton University	NE	Pri	3679	6	73	\$19,202	\$6,826	\$2,576	\$29,364	N	Y	Y	\$5,000	13
Dartmouth College	NH	Pri	4023	6	73	\$28,965	\$8,740	\$2,299	\$40,295	Y	N	N	\$29,539	34
Davidson College	NC	Pri	1679	6	24	\$25,903	\$7,371	\$2,300	\$34,000	Y	Y	Y	\$10,000	15
Dean College	MA	Pri	950	10	24	\$18,150	\$8,700	\$3,950	\$32,640	N	Y	Y	\$2,000	
Denison University	OH	Pri	2192	5	42	\$25,090	\$7,290	\$1,800	\$14,000	Y	Y	N	\$19,929	100
DePaul University	IL	Pri	14343	5	85	\$17,820	\$4,600		\$27,820	N	Y	Y	\$5,000	10
DePauw University	IN	Pri	2300	2	16	\$24,000	\$7,050	\$1,600	\$31,580	Y	N	N	\$26,993	17
Dickinson College	PA	Pri	2261	2	19	\$28,380	\$7,210	\$2,533	\$38,358	Y	Y	N	\$20,560	21
Dominican University of CA	CA	Pri	700	5	32	\$20,360	\$9,850	\$2,050	\$30,000	N	Y	N	\$6,000	
Drake University	IA	Pri	3603	8	60	\$19,100	\$5,700	\$3,100	\$28,220	Y	Y	Y	\$10,000	50
Drew University	NJ	Pri	1510	2	10	\$27,360	\$7,644	\$2,950	\$39,000	Y	Y	N	\$12,193	6
Drexel University	PA	Pri	15300	6	99	\$19,900	\$10,500	\$2,500	\$34,205	N	Y	Y	\$8,000	
Duke University	NC	Pri	6140	5	85	\$28,145	\$8,250	\$2,530	\$39,700	Y	Y	Y		45
Duquesne University	PA	Pri	6073	7	96	\$18,527	\$7,170	\$2,000	\$28,397	N	Y	Y	\$6,000	35
D'Youville College	NY	Pri	1100	16	12	\$13,700	\$6,750	\$1,320	\$21,544	N	Y	N	\$9,000	20
Earlham College	IN	Pri	1083	7	32	\$23,920	\$5,416	\$2,550	\$32,526	Y	Y	N	\$11,400	62
Eckerd College	FL	Pri	1575	13	67	\$22,538	\$5,970	\$2,000	\$31,000	N	Y	Y	\$7,500	65

Elizabethtown College	PA	Pri	1750	4	40	\$22,500	\$6,300	\$1,400	\$28,800	Y	Y	N	\$10,307	80
Elmhurst College	IL	Pri	2678	1	20	\$17,500	\$5,722	\$5,100	\$25,000	N	Y	N	\$4,602	3
Elmira College	NY	Pri	1200	8	23	\$25,040	\$8,080	\$2,400	\$36,220	Y	Y	N	\$15,000	17
Elon University	NC	Pri	4300	1	41	\$16,325	\$5,670	\$3,260	\$25,500	N	Y	Y	\$4,270	2
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	FL	Pri	4600	12	110	\$21,360	\$6,370	\$900	\$7,500	N	Y	Y		9
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	AZ	Pri	1750	5	32	\$20,700	\$5,540	\$6,196	\$32,280	N	Y	N	\$4,000	8
Emerson College	MA	Pri	2800	4	62	\$22,144	\$9,859	\$2,400	\$35,000	N	Y	N	\$6,300	22
Emmanuel College	MA	Pri	847	7	33	\$18,900	\$8,400	\$3,000	\$30,750	N	Y	N		4
Emory University	GA	Pri	5500	5	61	\$27,600	\$8,920	\$3,217	\$40,089	N	Y	N	\$20,000	3
Endicott College	MA	Pri	1474	8	36	\$16,744	\$8,858	\$2,600	\$26,000	N	Y	N	\$6,731	6
Eugene Lang College/New School University	NY	Pri	636	4	14	\$21,530	\$10,500	\$400	\$32,830	N	Y	N	\$1,000	40%
Fairfield University	CT	Pri	3400	2	40	\$26,100	\$8,920	\$500	\$36,225	N	Y	Y	\$6,942	
Fairleigh Dickinson University	NJ	Pri	6514	6	62	\$19,854	\$8,250	\$1,500	\$29,364	Y	Y	Y	\$5,000	273
Florida Institute of Technology	FL	Pri	2200	25	87	\$22,600	\$6,100	\$2,500	\$31,200	N	Y	Y	\$6,000	120
Florida Southern College	FL	Pri	1800	7	38	\$17,542	\$6,050	\$2,500	\$26,000	N	Y	Y	\$5,400	
Fordham University	NY	Pri	6121	1	53	\$25,000	\$9,000	\$4,650	\$35,000	N	Y	Y		
Franklin & Marshall College	PA	Pri	1850	8	60	\$27,230	\$6,580	\$1,000	\$34,810	Y	Y	N	\$25,139	109
Gardner-Webb University	NC	Pri	3800	2	33	\$14,160	\$5,140	\$1,635		N	Y	Y	\$11,405	31
George Fox University	OR	Pri	1400	3	15	\$18,575	\$5,945	\$1,500	\$26,000	N	Y	N	\$7,715	
George Mason University	VA	Pub	15802	5	127	\$14,100	\$5,842	\$5,070	\$27,570	N	Y	Y	\$5,000	
Gettysburg College	PA	Pri	2500	3	30	\$28,424	\$6,972	\$500	\$35,000	Y	Y	N	\$24,500	50
Goldey-Beacom College	DE	Pri	1800	22	72	\$11,016	\$3,996	\$2,400	\$17,412	Y	Y	Y	\$6,000	45
Gonzaga University	WA	Pri	2812	4	50	\$20,510	\$5,960	\$2,240	\$28,960	Y	Y	Y	\$4,000	11
Goucher College	MD	Pri	1200	5	27	\$24,150	\$8,200	\$2,000	\$34,650	N	Y	N	\$9,300	
Grand Valley State University	MI	Pub	16875	1	52	\$11,865	\$6,500	\$3,635	\$22,000	N	Y	Y	\$3,000	14
Grinnell College	IA	Pri	1485	13	53	\$23,898	\$6,570	\$2,340	\$33,400	Y	Y	N	\$20,878	230
Guilford College	NC	Pri	1800	3	35	\$18,900	\$5,940	\$3,190	\$27,830	N	Y	N	\$7,000	
Gustavus Adolphus College	MN	Pri	2525	3	17	\$21,330	\$5,460	\$1,800	\$27,220	Y	Y	N		
Hamilton College	NY	Pri	1765	4	40	\$30,000	\$7,360	\$1,500	\$37,510	Y	Y	N	\$29,106	47
Hamline University	MN	Pri	1805	4	35	\$20,582	\$6,038	\$2,500	\$30,510	Y	Y	N	\$12,100	179
Hampshire College	MA	Pri	1219	4	24	\$28,832	\$7,689	\$1,927	\$38,990	Y	Y	N	\$26,542	23
Hartwick College	NY	Pri	1400	4	37	\$25,200	\$7,250	\$1,075	\$400	Y	Y	Y	\$21,450	

Harvard College	MA	Pri	6650	7	82	\$26,066	\$8,868	\$2,522	\$40,450	Y	N	N	\$32,503	352
Haverford College	PA	Pri	1138	4	30	\$27,006	\$9,020	\$2,496	\$40,556	Y	N	N		3
HI Pacific University	HI	Pri	6759	24	104	\$10,368	\$7,167	\$1,865	\$19,400	N	Y	Y		
Hiram College	OH	Pri	941	4	23	\$20,440	\$7,100	\$1,400	\$29,964	N	Y	N	\$13,078	79
Hobart and William Smith Colleges	NY	Pri	1850	3	28	\$28,400	\$7,588	\$1,000	\$37,000	Y	N	N	\$14,000	
Hofstra University	NY	Pri	9000	8	64	\$18,000	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$28,000	N	N	Y		
Hollins University	VA	Pri	847		12	\$20,200	\$7,290	\$2,300		Y	Y	N	\$11,010	6
Hope College	MI	Pri	3035	2	36	\$19,212	\$6,018	\$2,260	\$27,600	N	Y	N	\$18,592	37
IL Wesleyan University	IL	Pri	2130	2	23	\$24,390	\$5,840	\$1,650	\$32,030	N	Y	N	\$10,517	12
Indiana University	IN	Pub	29768	4	136	\$17,697	\$7,548	\$4,795	\$30,040	N	Y	Y	\$2,441	
Indiana University of PA	PA	Pub	14000	4	74	\$10,946	\$4,400	\$1,900	\$18,749	Y	N	N	\$4,000	
International Academy of Design & Technology	FL	Pri	1678	4	12	\$15,120	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$21,720	N	Y	N	\$1,000	23
International College of Hospitality Management César Ritz	CT	Pri	589	80	38	\$14,500	\$4,250	\$1,500	\$20,000	Y	Y	N	\$2,250	250
Iona College	NY	Pri	2976	2	54	\$17,750	\$9,698	\$1,000	\$29,500	N	Y	Y	\$13,200	15
Ithaca College	NY	Pri	6190	3	72	\$22,264	\$9,466	\$2,466	\$34,196	Y	Y	N	\$18,268	183
James Madison University	VA	Pub	15152	4	97	\$13,280	\$5,736	\$2,740	\$21,756	N	N	Y		
Johnson & Wales University	RI	Pri	15277	9	95	\$15,438	\$7,506	\$750	\$24,000	N	Y	N		
Juniata College	PA	Pri	1300	6	35	\$22,240	\$6,290	\$1,350	\$30,430	N	Y	N	\$9,000	40
Kalamazoo College	MI	Pri	1265	2	14	\$22,908	\$6,480	\$2,076	\$31,914	N	Y	N	\$8,250	2
Kenyon College	OH	Pri	1576	3	26	\$27,900	\$4,690	\$1,660	\$37,120	Y	Y	N	\$25,000	
Knox College	IL	Pri	1120	8	42	\$24,105	\$5,925	\$1,600	\$31,894	Y	Y	N	\$16,145	76
Lafayette College	PA	Pri	2300	7	72	\$27,178	\$8,418	\$1,975	\$37,321	Y	N	N	\$30,293	66
Lawrence Technological University	MI	Pri	4200	8	37	\$14,112	\$6,125	\$2,400	\$22,800	N	Y	N	\$5,000	22
Lawrence University	WI	Pri	1389	12	45	\$24,900	\$5,784	\$1,800	\$33,000	Y	Y	N	\$17,283	133
Le Moyne College	NY	Pri	2485	1	11	\$18,440	\$7,450	\$1,959	\$28,500	N	Y	Y	\$19,197	7
Lebanon Valley College	PA	Pri	1879	0.3	5	\$21,860	\$6,360	\$3,000	\$31,870	N	Y	N	\$9,318	
Lehigh University	PA	Pri	4685	3	40	\$27,230	\$7,440	\$2,545	\$37,415	Y	Y	N	\$23,363	24
Linfield College	OR	Pri	1600	3	21	\$20,770	\$6,830	\$2,382	\$30,152	Y	Y	N	\$13,959	28
Loras College	IA	Pri	1735	2	13	\$17,370	\$5,945	\$1,012	\$25,276	Y	Y	N	\$8,211	
Loyola University Chicago	IL	Pri	7520	8	70	\$20,544	\$7,828	\$3,698	\$30,037	N	Y	Y	\$6,000	
Loyola University New Orleans	LA	Pri	3800	7	48	\$21,320	\$7,630	\$3,379	\$33,165	N	Y	N		36
Luther College	IA	Pri	2575	6	40	\$21,600	\$4,100	\$1,700	\$27,400	Y	Y	N	\$12,700	150

Lynchburg College	VA	Pri	1700	2	15	\$21,270	\$5,400	\$3,000	\$30,295	N	Y	N	\$7,500	11
Lynn University	FL	Pri	1686	23	89	\$22,000	\$8,000	\$1,750	\$32,500	N	Y	Y	\$10,994	
Macalester College	MN	Pri	1796	16	89	\$25,070	\$6,516	\$1,800	\$34,000	Y	N	N	\$18,900	140
Maine College of Art	ME	Pri	435	3	8	\$20,614	\$7,678	\$1,650	\$28,000	Y	Y	N	\$7,016	
Manchester College	IN	Pri	1140	7	29	\$17,050	\$6,340	\$2,500	\$25,890	Y	Y	N	\$11,800	100 %
Manhattan College	NY	Pri	3300	12	27	\$18,200	\$7,750	\$1,500	\$28,200	N	Y	Y		
Manhattanville College	NY	Pri	1400	19	52	\$23,035	\$9,380	\$2,650	\$33,650	N	Y	N	\$7,500	
Marist College	NY	Pri	3900	2	17	\$18,000	\$8,500	\$3,000	\$30,000	N	N	Y		
Marquette University	WI	Pri	7500	3	54	\$20,350	\$13,100	\$2,440	\$32,450	N	Y	Y	\$4,000	
Maryland Institute College of Art	MD	Pri	1201	6	42	\$22,980	\$7,180	\$3,600	\$34,885	N	Y	N	\$2,500	
Marymount College of Fordham University	NY	Pri	800	6	21	\$16,680	\$8,695	\$3,330	\$29,235	N	Y	N	\$5,227	60
Marymount College, Palos Verdes	CA	Pri	722	17	40	\$16,990	\$8,800	\$3,373	\$29,433	Y	Y	Y	\$5,816	19
Marywood University	PA	Pri	1750	2	21	\$25,410	\$13,960		\$39,370	Y	Y	N	\$13,142	21
Memphis College of Art	TN	Pri	285	10	12	\$14,500	\$5,500	\$3,000	\$23,260	N	Y	N	\$3,500	
Menlo College	CA	Pri	542	22	32	\$21,630	\$9,080	\$2,380	\$31,500	N	Y	N	\$10,000	56
Mercer University	GA	Pri	2378	9	40	\$18,948	\$6,420	\$1,700	\$27,848	N	N	Y	\$2,500	4
Merrimack College	MA	Pri	2000	5	21	\$20,625	\$8,750	\$3,000	\$31,885	N	N	Y		
Methodist College	NC	Pri	2200	3	28	\$15,650	\$5,940	\$1,050	\$22,000	Y	Y	N	\$7,500	100 %
Miami University	OH	Pub	15384	1	65	\$16,769	\$6,680	\$2,400	\$27,255	N	Y	Y	\$10,471	24
Michigan State University	MI	Pub	34089	6	12 6	\$15,260	\$4,974	\$4,530	\$24,764	N	Y	Y		
Middlebury College	VT	Pri	2297	10	75	\$38,100		\$2,450	\$40,550	Y	N	N	\$37,000	162
Mills College	CA	Pri	750	3	12	\$23,000	\$8,930	\$3,500	\$39,000	N	Y	N		
Minnesota State University Moorhead	MN	Pub	6500	1	25	\$2,700	\$2,958	\$450	\$12,600	N	Y	N	\$2,000	
Moravian College	PA	Pri	1824	2	21	\$21,663	\$7,095	\$1,500	\$10,500	N	Y	N	\$7,000	2
Mount Holyoke College	MA	Pri	2100	15	80	\$29,170	\$8,580	\$2,475	\$40,000	Y	Y	N		
Mount Ida College	MA	Pri	1200	12	30	\$16,100	\$9,000	\$3,000	\$26,000	N	Y	N	\$2,000	
New England College	NH	Pri	1000	8	18	\$20,480	\$7,714	\$2,000	\$27,324	Y	Y	N	\$10,000	8
New York University	NY	Pri	17475	8	14 5	\$28,495	\$10,910	\$3,420	\$42,825	N	Y	N	\$10,000	
Newbury College	MA	Pri	800	20	40	\$14,725	\$7,975	\$3,500	\$28,925	N	Y	N	\$2,000	
Niagara University	NY	Pri	2635	7	16	\$16,700	\$7,670	\$1,600	\$27,000	N	N	Y		18
North Central College	IL	Pri	2533	1	24	\$19,041	\$6,375	\$1,179	\$27,000	N	Y	N		

Northeastern University	MA	Pri	14144	7	131	\$26,165	\$9,810	\$2,600	\$39,813	N	Y	Y	\$10,000	21
Northwest College	WY	Pub	1636	2	14	\$3,935	\$3,358	\$3,210	\$10,728	N	Y	Y	\$2,184	7
Northwestern College	IA	Pri	1294	3	15	\$15,290	\$4,350	\$2,000	\$14,000	Y	Y	Y	\$6,000	25
Northwestern University	IL	Pri	7946	5	46	\$28,404	\$8,967	\$3,402	\$40,110	N	N	Y		
Northwood University	FL	Pri	1003	28	45	\$13,485	\$7,045	\$1,211	\$22,251	N	Y	Y	\$2,500	
Notre Dame de Namur University	CA	Pri	967	8	22	\$20,050	\$9,290	\$1,800	\$30,000	N	Y	Y	\$4,000	
Nova Southeastern University	FL	Pri	4700	11	57	\$15,100	\$6,300	\$1,400	\$17,000	Y	Y	Y	\$4,500	
Oberlin College	OH	Pri	2848	6	60	\$29,500	\$7,250	\$1,739	\$38,489	Y	Y	N	\$26,500	90
Oglethorpe University	GA	Pri	1200	11	28	\$19,920	\$6,550	\$1,700	\$28,170	N	Y	N		
Ohio Northern University	OH	Pri	3300	1	17	\$24,435	\$6,030	\$3,000	\$33,465	N	Y	N		
Ohio Wesleyan University	OH	Pri	1935	11	52	\$25,080	\$7,110	\$2,735	\$10,000	Y	Y	N	\$17,154	214
Otis College of Art and Design	CA	Pri	960	12	22	\$22,818	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$33,880	N	Y	N	\$3,000	8
PA State University	PA	Pub	34829	2	132	\$18,551	\$6,000	\$7,420	\$32,342	N	N	Y		
Pace University	NY	Pri	9150	10	108	\$20,540	\$10,150	\$1,320	\$32,522	N	Y	Y		
Parsons School of Design, New York	NY	Pri	2311	29	62	\$23,900	\$9,896	\$2,062	\$44,640	Y	Y	N	\$3,500	
Pepperdine University	CA	Pri	2800	8	70	\$26,280	\$7,800	\$2,550	\$36,700	N	Y	Y	\$19,196	44
Philadelphia University	PA	Pri	2250	4	38	\$19,962	\$7,628	\$2,500	\$32,632	N	Y	Y	\$2,500	
Point Park College	PA	Pri	3000	4	42	\$14,720	\$6,660	\$2,500	\$24,060	N	Y	Y	\$6,800	
Princeton University	NJ	Pri	4600	9	65	\$27,230	\$7,842	\$2,888		Y	N	N	\$24,774	91
Providence College	RI	Pri	3765	1	16	\$21,665	\$8,500	\$650	\$32,245	N	Y	Y		
Purdue University	IN	Pub	30908	7	130	\$18,322	\$9,100	\$890	\$28,312	N	N	Y	\$8,460	
Queens University of Charlotte	NC	Pri	1205	4	27	\$15,650	\$6,190	\$3,070	\$24,910	N	Y	Y	\$8,000	17
Quinnipiac University	CT	Pri	5000	2	18	\$20,200	\$9,450	\$1,000	\$30,000	Y	Y	Y	\$8,500	20
Radford University	VA	Pub	8000	3	47	\$11,202	\$5,660	\$3,386	\$20,248	N	Y	Y		
Ramapo College of New Jersey	NJ	Pub	5143	5	67	\$9,200	\$7,620	\$2,400	\$18,620	N	Y	N	\$15,000	
Randolph-Macon College	VA	Pri	1150	1	14	\$20,550	\$6,030	\$1,670	\$28,900	N	Y	N	\$11,036	17
Randolph-Macon Woman's College	VA	Pri	750	12	47	\$20,150	\$7,900	\$1,800	\$30,230	Y	Y	N	\$14,786	100%
Reed College	OR	Pri	1350	6	25	\$29,000	\$7,750	\$1,850	\$40,400	Y	N	N	\$20,000	9
Regis College	MA	Pri	1085	5	10	\$19,000	\$8,675	\$2,600	\$29,500	Y	Y	N	\$5,000	
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	NY	Pri	5139	4	76	\$27,700	\$9,083	\$1,621	\$41,905	N	Y	Y		
Rhodes College	TN	Pri	1550	3	16	\$22,625	\$6,382	\$2,500	\$7,000	Y	Y	N	\$7,000	

Rice University	TX	Pri	2787	3	25	\$18,850	\$7,880	\$4,280	\$31,830	N	Y	Y	\$9,111	35
Ringling School of Art and Design	FL	Pri	1015	9	46	\$18,860	\$8,870	\$4,631	\$33,898	N	Y	N	\$1,500	
Roanoke College	VA	Pri	1790	1	17	\$20,335	\$6,528	\$1,600	\$29,418	N	Y	N	\$16,334	9
Rochester Institute of Technology	NY	Pri	12938	5	90	\$21,027	\$7,833	\$1,868	\$31,085	N	Y	N	\$6,000	
Rockford College	IL	Pri	1048	3	17	\$20,210	\$6,575	\$2,600	\$29,385	N	Y	N	\$10,226	30
Roger Williams University	RI	Pri	3400	4	30	\$18,360	\$8,370	\$1,600	\$28,150	N	Y	N	\$2,000	
Rollins College	FL	Pri	1700	7	37	\$25,500	\$8,050	\$2,000	\$36,300	N	Y	Y	\$6,000	15
Rosemont College	PA	Pri	400	2	18	\$16,800	\$7,700	\$2,200	\$27,500	N	N	N	\$7,000	
Sacred Heart University	CT	Pri	3100	4	55	\$19,255	\$8,318	\$2,460		N	Y	Y		
Saint Leo University	FL	Pri	10500	10	52	\$12,750	\$6,800	\$4,000	\$23,070	N	Y	Y		30
Saint Louis University	MO	Pri	7228	5	83	\$22,050	\$7,640	\$3,870	\$33,560	N	Y	Y	\$14,227	91
Saint Mary's College	IN	Pri	1600	1	12	\$21,624	\$7,289	\$2,475	\$31,413	N	Y	N	\$18,367	
Saint Mary's College of CA	CA	Pri	2500	4	40	\$23,640	\$9,075	\$1,500	\$33,385	N	Y	Y	\$6,000	7
Saint Michael's College	VT	Pri	1911	2	17	\$22,220	\$7,680	\$2,000	\$31,760	Y	Y	Y	\$13,555	
Saint Xavier University	IL	Pri	3500	2	19	\$16,500	\$6,464	\$2,000	\$25,000	N	Y	Y	\$3,000	10
Salve Regina University	RI	Pri	1800	5	23	\$20,100	\$8,700	\$1,800	\$31,010	N	Y	N	\$6,000	1
Sarah Lawrence College	NY	Pri	1072	6	35	\$30,120	\$10,894	\$1,500	\$43,186	Y	N	N		
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	MA	Pri	700	12	41	\$26,243	\$11,440	\$2,000	\$40,000	N	Y	N	\$4,000	
Simmons College	MA	Pri	1300	6	35	\$22,860	\$9,450	\$2,100	\$33,000	N	Y	N		
Skidmore College	NY	Pri	2213	2	26	\$29,350	\$8,300	\$2,779	\$40,729	Y	Y	N	\$24,000	6
Smith College	MA	Pri	2630	8	58	\$27,330	\$9,490	\$2,400	\$39,434	Y	Y	N	\$24,935	
Southampton College	NY	Pri	1400	4	20	\$18,240	\$5,500	\$1,500	\$30,000	N	Y	Y	\$7,000	
Southern Methodist University	TX	Pri	5836	4	80	\$20,634	\$8,760	\$3,500	\$35,519	N	Y	Y	\$15,578	140
Southwestern University	TX	Pri	1256	2	14	\$18,870	\$6,530	\$2,000	\$27,400	Y	Y	N		
St John's College	MD	Pri	467	3	8	\$28,840	\$7,320	\$1,630	\$37,990	Y	N	N	\$17,068	2
St John's College	NM	Pri	450	2	7	\$28,840	\$7,320	\$1,400	\$36,380	Y	N	N	\$24,000	
St John's University	NY	Pri	14708	4	80	\$19,600	\$9,000	\$4,080	\$25,780	N	Y	Y		
St Lawrence University	NY	Pri	2000	4	19	\$27,985	\$7,755	\$1,903	\$37,848	Y	Y	Y	\$27,600	20
St Mary's University, San Antonio	TX	Pri	2724	6	39	\$15,992	\$5,130	\$3,980	\$25,580	N	Y	Y	\$7,500	15
St Norbert College	WI	Pri	2100	10	34	\$17,957	\$5,162	\$830	\$24,149	N	Y	N	\$4,000	
St Olaf College	MN	Pri	3041	1	28	\$23,650	\$4,850	\$2,050	\$30,550	Y	Y	N	\$11,642	26
St Thomas Aquinas College	NY	Pri	2060	2	10	\$14,500	\$8,300	\$1,000	\$24,120	N	Y	Y	\$5,000	16
State University of New York College at Brockport	NY	Pub	6959	1	20	\$8,300	\$6,520	\$2,644	\$18,335	N	Y	N		

Stevens Institute of Technology	NJ	Pri	1700	9	45	\$26,000	\$8,500	\$1,920	\$36,540	N	Y	N	\$5,000	52
Stonehill College	MA	Pri	2416	1	5	\$20,432	\$9,450	\$2,134	\$32,886	N	N	Y		
Suffolk University	MA	Pri	3618	15	101	\$18,670	\$10,880	\$2,160	\$30,671	N	Y	N	\$7,000	
Susquehanna University	PA	Pri	1800	1	11	\$23,170	\$6,510	\$2,500	\$32,490	N	Y	N	\$16,807	
Swarthmore College	PA	Pri	1450	10	63	\$28,500	\$8,914	\$2,860	\$39,616	Y	N	N	\$30,030	20
Sweet Briar College	VA	Pri	710	4	20	\$19,700	\$8,040	\$2,000	\$27,940	N	Y	N	\$15,000	
Syracuse University	NY	Pri	10936	3	61	\$24,170	\$9,590	\$3,104	\$37,816	N	Y	Y		
Temple University	PA	Pub	30000	5	20	\$13,856	\$7,000	\$4,394	\$25,710	N	Y	Y	\$4,048	
Tennessee Technological University	TN	Pub	8600	3	55	\$6,472	\$3,880	\$5,815	\$18,233	N	Y	Y	\$6,253	
Texas Christian University	TX	Pri	6851	5	74	\$17,590	\$6,250	\$2,630	\$26,510	Y	Y	Y	\$9,000	
Texas State University	TX	Pub	19412	1	63	\$7,872	\$5,356	\$4,544	\$18,846	N	Y	Y		
The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University	MA	Pri	550	13	25	\$16,400	\$9,500	\$3,805	\$30,000	N	Y	N		
The Catholic University of America	DC	Pri	2600	9	106	\$21,050	\$8,050	\$1,000	\$31,500	N	Y	N	\$5,000	100
The College of St Scholastica	MN	Pri	1600	5	21	\$19,192	\$5,668	\$2,000	\$17,500	Y	N	N	\$16,761	15
The College of Wooster	OH	Pri	1800	7	38	\$25,040	\$6,260	\$1,800	\$33,100	Y	Y	N	\$15,350	132
The Colorado College	CO	Pri	1900	3	28	\$27,370	\$6,840	\$3,453	\$37,663	Y	Y	Y		6
The George Washington University	DC	Pri	8892	8	139	\$29,350	\$10,040	\$2,350	\$41,970	N	Y	Y	\$16,000	
The Savannah College of Art and Design	GA	Pri	5200	18	88	\$19,035	\$8,175	\$3,000	\$30,210	N	Y	N	\$2,400	
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago	IL	Pri	1819	14	41	\$24,000	\$9,000	\$5,600	\$39,750	N	Y	N	\$3,600	
The University of Chicago	IL	Pri	4100	9	63	\$28,689	\$9,165	\$3,887	\$43,300	Y	Y	N	\$28,500	36
The University of Scranton	PA	Pri	3970	2	14	\$20,248	\$8,772	\$2,300	\$31,000	Y	Y	N		
The University of Tampa	FL	Pri	3228	10	86	\$16,670	\$6,410	\$2,500	\$26,552	N	Y	Y	\$10,525	4
The University of The Arts	PA	Pri	1923	3	30	\$20,860	\$6,000	\$2,800	\$33,610	N	Y	N		
The University of Tulsa	OK	Pri	2671	11	70	\$16,400	\$6,260	\$2,500	\$25,840	N	Y	Y		
Trinity College (Hartford)	CT	Pri	1950	6	41	\$27,170	\$7,380	\$1,698	\$37,680	Y	N	N		15
Trinity University	TX	Pri	2400	2	30	\$18,402	\$7,290	\$1,483	\$28,500	N	Y	N	\$10,000	6
Tufts University	MA	Pri	4900	8	71	\$28,155	\$10,650	\$800	\$42,516	Y	N	N	\$19,500	5
Tulane University	LA	Pri	11274	7	90	\$26,885	\$7,392	\$1,300	\$36,000	Y	Y	Y	\$15,000	
Union College	NY	Pri	2000	5	12	\$28,608	\$7,077	\$1,495	\$37,500	Y	N	N	\$20,000	20
University of Bridgeport	CT	Pri	1100	27	58	\$15,604	\$7,760	\$420	\$25,002	N	Y	Y	\$12,111	39
University of Delaware	DE	Pub	15808	1	106	\$14,475	\$7,200	\$2,775	\$24,450	N	N	Y		

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University of Denver	CO	Pri	4117	6	97	\$24,264	\$7,275	\$2,403	\$34,386	N	Y	Y	\$8,400	106
University of Evansville	IN	Pri	2600	8	44	\$18,900	\$5,630	\$3,570	\$28,500	N	Y	Y	\$4,000	
University of Indianapolis	IN	Pri	2868	6	60	\$16,620	\$5,940	\$4,000	\$26,560	N	Y	Y	\$4,000	90
University of Miami	FL	Pri	9000	10	117	\$26,280	\$8,328	\$3,963	\$38,570	N	Y	Y	\$13,754	
University of Mississippi	MS	Pub	10276	1	60	\$9,960	\$7,350	\$1,845	\$19,415	Y	Y	Y	\$4,000	
University of New Hampshire	NH	Pub	10900	1	26	\$17,830	\$5,882	\$3,400	\$29,500	Y	Y	Y	\$6,000	18
University of Notre Dame	IN	Pri	8000	5	70	\$27,610	\$7,080	\$1,750	\$36,450	Y	N	Y		45
University of Oregon	OR	Pub	15196	8	79	\$15,021	\$5,898	\$3,628	\$26,577	Y	Y	Y	\$3,000	
University of PA	PA	Pri	9700	10	101	\$29,318	\$8,642	\$4,087	\$42,047	Y	N	N	\$31,360	45
University of Portland	OR	Pri	3150	10	32	\$21,900	\$6,250	\$1,500	\$21,900	Y	Y	Y	\$4,000	23
University of Puget Sound	WA	Pri	2592	1	16	\$25,190	\$6,400	\$4,424	\$36,500	N	Y	N	\$3,824	23
University of Redlands	CA	Pri	2017	8	13	\$23,796	\$8,480	\$2,445	\$31,600	N	Y	N	\$7,000	
University of Richmond	VA	Pri	2998	6	70	\$24,940	\$5,160	\$4,600	\$34,700	Y	Y	Y	\$19,250	
University of Rochester	NY	Pri	3700	5	89	\$26,900	\$8,770	\$1,700	\$38,889	N	Y	N	\$5,000	
University of San Diego	CA	Pri	4837	5	62	\$23,410	\$8,800	\$3,120	\$35,000	N	N	Y	\$11,000	
University of San Francisco	CA	Pri	3628	11	70	\$23,220	\$9,790	\$2,950	\$34,000	N	N	Y		
University of Southern CA	CA	Pri	15883	7	116	\$26,500	\$8,200	\$3,500	\$39,000	N	Y	Y		49
University of Southern Indiana	IN	Pub	9600	0	33	\$8,600	\$5,800	\$3,100	\$17,790	N	N	Y	\$12,900	7
University of Virginia	VA	Pub	12000	5	110	\$18,430	\$4,930	\$2,510	\$25,870	N	Y	Y	\$20,000	8
UT State University	UT	Pub	23000	4	85	\$8,295	\$5,800	\$3,430	\$17,939	N	Y	Y	\$1,500	15
Utica College of Syracuse University	NY	Pri	2177	4	24	\$19,980	\$8,070	\$2,030	\$27,998	N	Y	N	\$4,827	27
Vanderbilt University	TN	Pri	6000	5	104	\$26,400	\$9,060	\$2,150	\$38,297	Y	Y	Y	\$25,600	
Vassar College	NY	Pri	2400	6	40	\$29,095	\$7,490	\$2,200	\$39,000	Y	N	N	\$25,000	30
Villanova University	PA	Pri	6300	3	52	\$27,045	\$8,775	\$900	\$38,855	N	Y	Y		
Vincennes University	IN	Pub	4878	3	31	\$6,855	\$5,288	\$3,000	\$15,300	N	N	Y	\$3,000	10
Wabash College	IN	Pri	851	3	14	\$19,837	\$6,397	\$1,752	\$3,000	Y	Y	N		20
Wartburg College	IA	Pri	1700	4	33	\$18,550	\$5,150	\$2,300	\$26,000	Y	Y	N		36
Washington & Jefferson College	PA	Pri	1200	1	7	\$22,860	\$6,310	\$1,495	\$30,000	N	Y	N		8
Washington and Lee University	VA	Pri	1761	4	39	\$22,900	\$6,200	\$2,800	\$32,500	Y	Y	N	\$22,000	35
Washington College	MD	Pri	1200	9	40	\$24,240	\$5,740	\$800	\$30,540	N	Y	N	\$13,750	85%

Washington University in St Louis	MO	Pri	5835	4	10 4	\$28,300	\$9,240	\$2,490	\$43,653	Y	Y	N	\$23,441	
Webster University	MO	Pri	3367	10	89	\$15,480	\$6,500	\$2,500	\$24,480	Y	Y	N	\$7,100	
Wellesley College	MA	Pri	2300	8	54	\$26,138	\$8,242	\$2,800	\$1,300	Y	N	N	\$26,203	
Wells College	NY	Pri	437	3	8	\$13,592	\$6,830	\$1,400	\$23,500	Y	N	N	\$5,143	7
Wesleyan University	CT	Pri	2792	7	40	\$29,784	\$8,226	\$2,010	\$40,234	Y	Y	N	\$35,927	33
Western Michigan University	MI	Pub	23156	7	10 4	\$10,072	\$6,100	\$2,700	\$19,600	Y	N	Y	\$4,050	
Western New England College	MA	Pri	2185	1	11	\$19,460	\$8,100	\$3,118	\$32,042	N	Y	N		8
Wheaton College	MA	Pri	1521	6	29	\$28,075	\$7,430	\$2,715	\$39,045	N	Y	N	\$8,000	17
Whitman College	WA	Pri	1370	3	29	\$25,400	\$6,900	\$1,625	\$34,200	Y	Y	N	\$24,000	8
Whittier College	CA	Pri	1290	6	11	\$23,192	\$7,256	\$2,650	\$28,000	Y	Y	N		
Widener University	PA	Pri	2180	5	39	\$20,500	\$8,500	\$2,050	\$31,770	N	Y	N		
Williams College	MA	Pri	2000	7	51	\$26,326	\$7,230	\$1,900	\$35,456	Y	N	N	\$27,522	64
Wingate University	NC	Pri	1400	2	17	\$14,200	\$6,000	\$2,550	\$23,500	N	Y	Y	\$8,000	14
Wittenberg University	OH	Pri	2200	5	40	\$24,948	\$6,372	\$3,000	\$16,000	Y	Y	N	\$14,000	60
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	MA	Pri	2700	10	68	\$28,420	\$8,984	\$1,226	\$39,000	Y	Y	N	\$13,000	75
Xavier University	OH	Pri	3855	3	46	\$18,850	\$10,500	\$1,700	\$31,050	Y	Y	Y	\$2,500	10
Yale University	CT	Pri	5339	8	70	\$28,400	\$8,600	\$3,732	\$38,212	Y	N	N	\$29,650	

Appendix II:

Application Essay Tips

Your application essay is the most important essay you will ever write and probably the most difficult. The essay must demonstrate multiple facets of your personality and is often the only tool admissions officers use to determine whether or not you have what it takes to study at a particular university.

To help you with the process, EssayEdge.com prepared a series of tips to help you brainstorm topics, select a topic, and write the essay. Unfortunately, writing an excellent application essay is not formulaic; we cannot simply give you a list of instructions and guarantee you will write an excellent essay on your first try. However, with practice and determination, you should be able to write an excellent essay. To view this document online go to: www.essayedge.com

Brainstorming Topics

The most important part of your essay is the subject matter. You should expect to devote about 1-2 weeks simply to brainstorming ideas. To begin brainstorming a subject idea consider the following points. From brainstorming, you may find a subject you had not considered at first.

- What are your major accomplishments, and why do you consider them accomplishments? Do not limit yourself to accomplishments you have been formally recognized for since the most interesting essays often are based on accomplishments that may have been trite at the time but become crucial when placed in the context of your life.
- Does any attribute, quality, or skill distinguish you from everyone else? How did you develop this attribute?
- Consider your favorite books, movies, works of art, etc. Have these influenced your life in a meaningful way? Why are they your favorites?
- What was the most difficult time in your life, and why? How did your perspective on life change as a result of the difficulty?
- Have you ever struggled mightily for something and succeeded? What made you successful?
- Have you ever struggled mightily for something and failed? How did you respond?
- Of everything in the world, what would you most like to be doing right now? Where would you most like to be? Who, of everyone living and dead, would you most like to be with? These questions should help you realize what you love most.
- Have you experienced a moment of epiphany, as if your eyes were opened

to something you were previously blind to?

- What is your strongest, most unwavering personality trait? Do you maintain strong beliefs or adhere to a philosophy? How would your friends characterize you? What would they write about if they were writing your admissions essay for you?
- What have you done outside of the classroom that demonstrates qualities sought after by universities? Of these, which means the most to you?
- What are your most important extracurricular or community activities? What made you join these activities? What made you continue to contribute to them?
- What are your dreams of the future? When you look back on your life in thirty years, what would it take for you to consider your life successful? What people, things, and accomplishments do you need? How does this particular university fit into your plans for the future?

If these questions cannot cure your writer's block, consider the following exercises:

1. Ask for Help from Parents, Friends, Colleagues, etc.

If you cannot characterize yourself and your personality traits do not automatically leap to mind, ask your friends to write a list of your five most salient personality traits. Ask your friends why they chose the ones they did. If an image of your personality begins to emerge, consider life experiences that could illustrate the particular traits.

2. Consider your Childhood

While admissions officers are not interested in reading about your childhood and are more interested in the last 2-4 years of your life, you might consider events of your childhood that inspired the interests you have today. Interests that began in childhood may be the most defining parts of your life, even if you recently lost interest. For instance, if you were interested in math since an early age and now want to study medicine, you might incorporate this into your medical school admissions essay. Analyze the reasons for your interests and how they were shaped from your upbringing.

3. Consider your Role Models

Many applicants do not have role models and were never greatly influenced by just one or two people. However, for those of you who have role models and actually aspire to become like certain people, you may want to incorporate a discussion of that person and the traits you admired into your application essay.

4. Read Sample Admissions Essays

Before you sat down to write a poem, you would certainly read past poets. Before writing a book of philosophy, you would consider past philosophers. In the same way, we recommend reading sample admissions essays to understand what topics other applicants chose. EssayEdge.com maintains an archive of over 100 free sample admissions essays.

5. Goal Determination

Life is short. Why do you want spend 2-6 years of your life at a particular college, graduate school, or professional school? How is the degree necessary to the fulfillment of your goals? When considering goals, think broadly. Few people would be satisfied with just a career. How else will your education fit your needs and lead you to a fulfilling life?

If after reading this entire page you do not have an idea for your essay, do not be surprised. Coming up with an idea is difficult and requires time. Actually consider the questions and exercises above. Without a topic you feel passionate about, without one that brings out the defining aspects of you personality, you risk falling into the trap of sounding like the 90 percent of applicants who will write boring admissions essays. The only way to write a unique essay is to have experiences that support whatever topic you come up with. Whatever you do, don't let the essay stress you out. Have fun with the brainstorming process. You might discover something about yourself you never consciously realized.

Selecting an Essay Topic

Having completed step one, you should now have a rough idea of the elements you wish to include in your essay, including your goals, important life experiences, research experience, diversifying features, spectacular nonacademic accomplishments, etc. You should also now have an idea of what impression you want to make on the admissions officers. We should remark that at this stage, undergraduate applicants have a large advantage over graduate school applicants. Whereas nobody questions a high school student's motivation to attend college, graduate and professional school applicants must directly address in their essays their desire to study their selected field.

You must now confront the underlying problem of the admissions essay. You must now consider topics that will allow you to synthesize your important personal characteristics and experiences into a coherent whole while simultaneously addressing your desire to attend a specific institution. While most admissions essays allow great latitude in topic selection, you must also be sure to answer the questions that were asked of you. Leaving a lasting impression on someone who reads 50-100 essays a day will not be easy, but we have compiled some guidelines to help you get started. With any luck, one or two topics, with small changes, will allow you to answer application questions for 5-7 different colleges, although admissions officers do appreciate essays that provide convincing evidence of how an applicant will fit into a particular academic environment. You should at least have read the college's webpage, admissions catalog, and have an understanding of the institution's strengths.

Consider the following questions before proceeding:

- Have you selected a topic that describes something of personal importance in your life, with which you can use **vivid personal experiences** as supporting details?
- Is your topic a gimmick? That is, do you plan to write your essay in iambic pentameter or make it funny. You should be very, very careful if you are planning to do this. We recommend strongly that you do not do this. Almost always, this is done poorly and is not appreciated by the admissions committee. Nothing is worse than not laughing or not being amused at

something that was written to be funny or amusing.

- Will your topic only repeat information listed elsewhere on your application? If so, pick a new topic. Don't mention GPAs or standardized test scores in your essay.
- Can you offer vivid supporting paragraphs to your essay topic? If you cannot easily think of supporting paragraphs with concrete examples, you should probably choose a different essay topic.
- Can you fully answer the question asked of you? Can you address and elaborate on all points within the specified word limit, or will you end up writing a poor summary of something that might be interesting as a report or research paper? If you plan on writing something technical for college admissions, make sure you truly can back up your interest in a topic and are not merely throwing around big scientific words. Unless you convince the reader that you actually have the life experiences to back up your interest in neurobiology, the reader will assume you are trying to impress him/her with shallow tactics. Also, be sure you can write to admissions officers and that you are not writing over their heads.
- Can you keep the reader's interest from the first word. The entire essay must be interesting, considering admissions officers will probably only spend a few minutes reading each essay.
- Is your topic overdone? To ascertain this, peruse through old essays. EssayEdge's 100 free essays can help you do this. However, most topics are overdone, and this is not a bad thing. A unique or convincing answer to a classic topic can pay off big.
- Will your topic turnoff a large number of people? If you write on how everyone should worship your God, how wrong or right abortion is, or how you think the Republican or Democratic Party is evil, you will not get into the college of your choice. The only thing worse than not writing a memorable essay is writing an essay that will be remembered negatively. Stay away from specific religions, political doctrines, or controversial opinions. You can still write an essay about Nietzsche's influence on your life, but express understanding that not all intelligent people will agree with Nietzsche's claims. Emphasize instead Nietzsche's influence on **your** life, and not why you think he was wrong or right in his claims.
- In this vein, if you are presenting a topic that is controversial, you must acknowledge counter arguments without sounding arrogant.
- Will an admissions officer remember your topic after a day of reading hundreds of essays? What will the officer remember about your topic? What will the officer remember about you? What will your lasting impression be?

After evaluating your essay topics with the above criteria and asking for the opinions of your teachers or colleagues, and of your friends, you should have at least 1-2 interesting

essay topics. Consider the following guidelines below.

1. If you are planning on writing an essay on how you survived poverty in Russia, your mother's suicide, your father's kidnapping, or your immigration to America from Asia, you should be careful that your main goal is to address your own personal qualities. Just because something sad or horrible has happened to you does not mean that you will be a good college or graduate school student. You don't want to be remembered as the pathetic applicant. You want to be remembered as the applicant who showed impressive qualities under difficult circumstances. It is for this reason that essays relating to this topic are considered among the best. Unless you only use the horrible experience as a lens with which to magnify your own personal characteristics, you will not write a good essay. Graduate and professional school applicants should generally steer clear of this topic altogether unless you can argue that your experience will make you a better businessman, doctor, lawyer, or scholar.

2. Essays should fit in well with the rest of a candidate's application, explaining the unexplained and steering clear of that which is already obvious. For example, if you have a 4.0 GPA and a 1500 SAT, no one doubts your ability to do the academic work and addressing this topic would be ridiculous. However, if you have an 850 SAT and a 3.9 GPA or a 1450 SAT and a 2.5 GPA, you would be wise to incorporate in your essay an explanation for the apparent contradiction. For example, perhaps you were hospitalized or family concerns prevented your dedication to academics; you would want to mention this in your essay. However, do not make your essay one giant excuse. Simply give a quick, convincing explanation within the framework of your larger essay.

3. "Diversity" is the biggest buzzword of the 1990's. Every college, professional school, or graduate school wants to increase diversity. For this reason, so many applicants are tempted to declare what makes them diverse. However, simply saying you are a black, lesbian female will not impress admissions officers in the least. While an essay incorporating this information would probably be your best topic idea, you must finesse the issue by addressing your own personal qualities and how you overcame stigma, dealt with social ostracism, etc. If you are a rich student from Beverly Hills whose father is an engineer and whose mother is a lawyer, but you happen to be a minority, an essay about how you dealt with adversity would be unwise. You must demonstrate vividly your personal qualities, interests, motivations, etc. Address specifically how your diversity will contribute to the realm of campus opinion, the academic environment, and social life.

4. Don't mention weaknesses unless you absolutely need to explain them away. You want to make a positive first impression, and telling an admissions officer anything about drinking, drugs, partying, etc. undermines your goal. EssayEdge editors have read more essays on ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) than we would ever have imagined. Why admit to weakness when you can instead showcase your strengths?

5. Be honest, but not for honesty's sake. Unless you are a truly excellent writer, your best, most passionate writing will be about events that actually occurred. While you might be tempted to invent hardship, it is completely unnecessary. Write an essay about your life that demonstrates your personality.

Writing the Essay

You may be surprised that we do not address actually writing the essay until step three.

From that, you should understand the extreme importance of selecting a proper subject matter. However, even seemingly boring topics can be made into exceptional admissions essays with an innovative approach. In writing the essay you must bear in mind your two goals: to persuade the admissions officer that you are extremely worthy of admission and to make the admissions officer aware that you are more than a GPA and a standardized score, that you are a real-life, intriguing personality.

Unfortunately, there is no surefire step-by-step method to writing a good essay. However, we have compiled the following list of tips that you should find useful while writing your admissions essay.

1. **Answer the Question.** You can follow the next 12 steps, but if you miss the question, you will not be admitted to any institution.
2. **Be Original.** Even seemingly boring essay topics can sound interesting if creatively approached. If writing about a gymnastics competition you trained for, do not start your essay: "I worked long hours for many weeks to train for XXX competition." Consider an opening like, "Every morning I awoke at 5:00 to sweat, tears, and blood as I trained on the uneven bars hoping to bring the state gymnastics trophy to my hometown."
3. **Be Yourself.** Admissions officers want to learn about you and your writing ability. Write about something meaningful and describe your feelings, not necessarily your actions. If you do this, your essay will be unique. Many people travel to foreign countries or win competitions, but your feelings during these events are unique to you. Unless a philosophy or societal problem has interested you intensely for years, stay away from grand themes that you have little personal experience with.
4. **Don't "Thesaurize" your Composition.** For some reason, students continue to think big words make good essays. Big words are fine, but only if they are used in the appropriate contexts with complex styles. Think Hemingway.
5. **Use Imagery and Clear, Vivid Prose.** If you are not adept with imagery, you can write an excellent essay without it, but it's not easy. The application essay lends itself to imagery since the entire essay requires your experiences as supporting details. Appeal to the five senses of the admissions officers.
6. **Spend the Most Time on your Introduction.** Expect admissions officers to spend 1-2 minutes reading your essay. You must use your introduction to grab their interest from the beginning. You might even consider completely changing your introduction after writing your body paragraphs.
 - **Don't Summarize in your Introduction.** Ask yourself why a reader would want to read your entire essay after reading your introduction. If you summarize, the admissions officer need not read the rest of your essay.

- **Create Mystery or Intrigue in your Introduction.** It is not necessary or recommended that your first sentence give away the subject matter. Raise questions in the minds of the admissions officers to force them to read on. Appeal to their emotions to make them relate to your subject matter.
7. **Body Paragraphs Must Relate to Introduction.** Your introduction can be original, but cannot be silly. The paragraphs that follow must relate to your introduction.
 8. **Use Transition.** Applicants continue to ignore transition to their own detriment. You must use transition within paragraphs and especially between paragraphs to preserve the logical flow of your essay. Transition is not limited to phrases like "as a result, in addition, while . . . , since . . . , etc." but includes repeating key words and progressing the idea. Transition provides the intellectual architecture to argument building.
 9. **Conclusions are Crucial.** The conclusion is your last chance to persuade the reader or impress upon them your qualifications. In the conclusion, avoid summary since the essay is rather short to begin with; the reader should not need to be reminded of what you wrote 300 words before. Also do not use stock phrases like "in conclusion, in summary, to conclude, etc." You should consider the following conclusions:
 - Expand upon the broader implications of your discussion.
 - Consider linking your conclusion to your introduction to establish a sense of balance by reiterating introductory phrases.
 - Redefine a term used previously in your body paragraphs.
 - End with a famous quote that is relevant to your argument. Do not **try** to do this, as this approach is overdone. This should come naturally.
 - Frame your discussion within a larger context or show that your topic has widespread appeal.
 - Remember, your essay need not be so tidy that you can answer why your little sister died or why people starve in Africa; you are not writing a "sit-com," but should forge some attempt at closure.
 10. **Do Something Else.** Spend a week or so away from your draft to decide if you still consider your topic and approach worthwhile.
 11. **Give your Draft to Others.** Ask editors to read with these questions in mind:
 - What is the essay about?
 - Have I used active voice verbs wherever possible?
 - Is my sentence structure varied or do I use all long or all short

sentences?

- Do you detect any cliches?
- Do I use transition appropriately?
- Do I use imagery often and does this make the essay clearer and more vivid?
- What's the best part of the essay?
- What about the essay is memorable?
- What's the worst part of the essay?
- What parts of the essay need elaboration or are unclear?
- What parts of the essay do not support your main argument or are immaterial to your case?
- Is every single sentence crucial to the essay? This MUST be the case.
- What does the essay reveal about your personality?
- Could anyone else have written this essay?
- How would you fill in the following blank based on the essay: "I want to accept you to this college because our college needs more _____."

12. **Revise, Revise, Revise.** You only are allowed so many words; use them wisely. If H.D. Thoreau couldn't write a good essay without revision, neither will you. Delete anything in the essay that does not relate to your main argument. Do you use transition? Are your introduction and conclusions more than summaries? Did you find every single grammatical error?

- Allow for the evolution of your main topic. Do not assume your subject must remain fixed and that you can only tweak sentences.
- Editing takes time. Consider reordering your supporting details, delete irrelevant sections, and make clear the broader implications of your experiences. Allow your more important arguments to come to the foreground. Take points that might only be implicit and make them explicit.

Example of a successful essay:

"Sometimes, I think the world around me is crumbling to the ground, but it never does. Like most people, I face the crunches of deadlines and endless demands on my time, but I have never encountered the type of adversity that can crush people, that can drive people crazy, that can drive them to suicide. In this respect, I am lucky. In love with Scripture and

the Bible verses I memorized in youth, I find support when I seek it. With a very large family network, I can rely on my loved ones for advice and support, but I realized firsthand that many people lack this help; they never experience the bonds between family members and the touch of God through Scripture.

Frequently, I volunteer at a low-income pre-school in our community. The children who attend are deprived of the most basic things in life, the things I take for granted. Hungry for love and knowledge, these children love to be hugged and talked to, and they very much look forward to my weekly visits. Moreover, they have helped me to understand my obligation to help those less fortunate and to realize how truly blessed I am. When I leave for college, I will miss these children who have taught me unforgettable lessons about love and integrity. I am amazed each time I go there at the power they have over me. I am amazed at how sometimes it takes the innocence of a child to open doors that have been locked for years.

While I never had to deal with their pain and can never know their heartache and longing, I look to them as examples of why I should continue to work hard and to not waste opportunities. However, I need not look outside my family for this inspiration, for my cousin is a symbol of strength in adversity. I need look no farther than Ann Elizabeth when I feel like my world is falling apart and that I have too many commitments and too little time. Through Ann Elizabeth, I see the strength of the Lord and see the courage that I hope I will one day possess. Ann Elizabeth has shaped my life through her example and has made me into someone you would want to participate in your university's community. Hers is the story of wrong choices, of a life wasted, and of recovery, courage, and change. I am proud to call her my cousin.

Ann lives through pain and heartbreak, but she will live to see triumph because she has what it takes, but she needs all this courage just to stay alive. Born a rich girl, she grew up to be beautiful, destined to live in a house with a white picket fence. A Gainesville socialite and a southern belle, she visited country clubs and gardens at tea time, but she was never happy. She knew nothing of need, nothing of heartache, nothing of life. But she learned and continues to learn more about pain than anyone should ever know. Ann is a beautiful 22 year-old girl with a long slender figure and eyes full of pain. She has a mother, father, and 16 year-old brother sitting at home. They pray for her each night; they pray that she survives another day caged in her Peruvian prison cell.

At age 17, months from her 18th birthday, Ann Elizabeth ran away from home, rocking my family's structured world. No one knew where she was, but no one thought she could make it. What did this rich girl know about surviving? Finally, my uncle found her. She had moved to Miami and became involved with the wrong crowd. She married a Cuban named Lester who spoke no English, forcing her to learn Spanish, a skill that would save her life. Poor, she looked for employment, and in December, she was offered a job. For the cursed sum of \$7,000 dollars, she threw her entire life away; she destroyed herself for nothing. A naïve, stupid girl, she ended her chances at happiness with one decision, and after that, her goal became not to be happy, but to survive a life of hell.

In December of 1995, when most young, newlyweds are putting up Christmas trees, she was smuggling cocaine for her Lester. On her way to the plane back to the US she was stopped and found with 18 pounds of deadly white powder in her suitcase. The 20 year-old princess was caught on her first run; she was no drug dealer; she was just stupid. Even after being caught she didn't know she was in trouble. All she knew was that she had to get

home. She had to get back to Miami, but she never made it home.

At the time of her arrest, Ann Elizabeth was almost dead. An 88-pound heroine addict, we thought she was going to die; in fact, we thought she was dead already. In a way, getting caught saved her life, but it saved her for hell. Ironically, the place she had always run away from was now the place she needed to be most, but she just couldn't get home. Caught, tried, and sentenced, she started life over in a wretched Peruvian jail.

The steel bars that surround Ann Elizabeth are not fit for animals, let alone human beings. Peruvian prisons are not known for their humanity. In a prison built for 250 prisoners, she lives with 900 other women. The all-female prison is completely self-run, and the women must prepare their own meals, clean, and care for themselves and others. When Ann Elizabeth writes letters and her Peruvian guards accept them, she writes of the "adventures" she has had. She describes chickens that run inside the jail, soiling on the same places where the women must sleep. The water is so contaminated that the prisoners must boil it before drinking. Instead of dining on steak, she now dines on rice. With malnutrition plaguing the prison, many of the women have lost their hair and teeth. For \$7,000, she ruined her life.

Over the two years and four months she has been imprisoned, my uncle, her father, has visited her only seven times. Through his efforts, the U.S. embassy has attempted to alleviate some of the nutrition problems. Providing the Americans just enough vitamins and minerals to stay alive, my cousin watches as those around her rot and die before her very eyes.

When Ann Elizabeth was first imprisoned, she had the all-too-familiar attitude that it was just another thing that wasn't her fault. She believed herself the victim, but she allowed herself to be victimized. After being in Lima a year, she realized that all her problems had been caused from within. She's finally came to realize that there is indeed a higher force. A force higher than herself, the force of God. After extensively reading and studying her Bible, she now spends her time teaching the women how to read God's Word. She relies on her now God-given hope and courage to get through these difficult times. After going through such tremendous physical pain and mental anguish, she had lost all hope. She had hit rock bottom; death seemed like her only way out. Forced to start her life all over again she began to think of her future. God has given her the strength to make some responsible decisions for the first time. She has grown up. It has taken every ounce of courage in her, but she has made it.

We have all been down a very long road. There have been so many twists and turns along the way, but finally we have found our precious "E" again. It won't be an easy road, it never is, but we will make it. Love heals all wounds, even ones that rip people to shreds, or so we hope. Ann Elizabeth let us into her heart for the very first time, and that took the greatest amount of courage of all.

Through Ann Elizabeth, I have come to realize that people make their own choices in life, and eventually we are held accountable for those choices. Through my love for her and knowledge of what she has had to go through, I make different decisions than other people my age. I value life; and with every choice I make I think of Ann Elizabeth, my family, the children, and most of all my Lord. With their support and guidance, I will prevail. Hopefully, so will she.